



AIDS without HIV?

Technically, these patients do not have HIV or AIDS. But a battery of tests by the Ministry of Health has done little to persuade these 59 people with "HIV-negative AIDS" that their illness is one of the mind.



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Weibo users' top shopping picks

Microbloggers weigh in on what's new, cool and original at the shops.



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Biker gang rolls to heal kids

The Beijing Harley Owners Group (HOG) is organizing a charity dinner to raise money for Smile Angel Foundation.

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Human flesh goes plastic for exhibit

By Chu Meng

"The Mystery of Body Worlds," a new exhibition which takes donated human corpses and plasticizes them in everyday positions, opened Monday at the National Convention Center.

Co-sponsored by the Chinese Society for Anatomical Sciences and the public education department of the China Medical Association, the six-month exhibit shows 300 plasticized tissues and organs from the human body.

Thirteen of the pieces are entire human bodies posed in different gestures like playing football and dancing ballet. "These bodies will never decay, age or change in any way," said Sui Hongjin, director of anatomical research at Dalian Medical Institute, the supplier of the exhibit's specimens.

The bodies were processed by Dalian Hagens Human Body Plasticize Plant, one of the largest plasticizing factories in the world. It is the company's second exhibition after a controversial tour of 16 cities in 2004.

The plasticized bodies and body tissues are processed using chemicals that replace protein and water with plastic materials, Sui said.

Museum workers said the process not only better conserves the bodies, but also makes them appear more lifelike than those preserved in formaldehyde, an aqueous solution widely used as an antiseptic.

"Instead of the disgusting samples seen in medical schools and hospitals, we can make these samples like plasticized works of art," Sui said.

"[We want to] expose the mysteries of the human body in a seemingly thrilling way – to give the public, especially lay people, the chance to learn more about the body and its functions. We hope it can persuade more people to donate their bodies for medical research," he said.

Chinese medical scholars have criticized the idea of commercializing dead bodies and said cadavers should be reserved for research.

Visitors complained that the

exhibit was inappropriate for children and said the center was irresponsible for allowing them in. "These figures are surely not suitable for kids and primary school students. Even at my age they are horrible to look at," Zhao Chao, a middle-aged visitor, said.

But Sui said the exhibition has toured more than 60 cities in 26 countries and been visited by more than 6,000 people since 2004. "We welcome visitors of all ages. It is a fantastic biology lesson for young students," Sui said.

He said the high admission cost is intended to offset the expensive plasticizing process and maintenance.

The exhibition is being held to help visitors develop a "correct opinion" about death and "the relations between humans and animals," he said.

"People can only understand life when they understand death. People who better understand death are more willing to donate their bodies," he said.

Entrance to the exhibit costs 80 yuan.



A plasticized human body on display

CFP Photo

Korean, Chinese students fight desertification

By Li Zhixin

More than 140 college students from Seoul and Beijing traveled together to plant trees in the Kubuqi Desert last Saturday.

The volunteer activity, which aims to rein in Beijing's nearest expanding desert, was first initiated by Korean Future Forest, the Beijing Youth League Committee and the Beijing Youth Federation.

"The desertification problem is grim in China. I hope that young people – not only Chinese youths, but those from Korea, Japan and other countries – can participate in these efforts to save the Earth," said Kwon Byong Hyon, chairman of Future Forest and the former South Korean ambassador to China.



College students from Seoul and Beijing plant trees in the Kubuqi Desert. Photo provided by Cui Jie

For many of the Korean students, it was their first visit to the countryside. While there, they

learned about how locals live by staying with six host families, whom they assisted in picking corn, plow-

ing fields and spreading fertilizer.

Juil Youn, a student studying Chinese language and literature at Tsinghua University, said Kubuqi is poorly developed. "There are no garbage collection and disposal facilities in the area, so we organized several teams to help pick up trash in the village," he said.

He said the trip greatly increased his sense of responsibility toward the environment.

Lee R. Sara, a student of international relations at Peking University, said she was moved by the locals' kindness, sincerity and hospitality. "The local people were very grateful for our help with combatting desertification. They offered us their best food even though they

are quite poor," she said.

But what impressed her most was the villagers' concern with fighting desertification, even though the government is already moving them away from the region. She plans to visit again next year to visit her host family next year and check on the tree.

The tree planting activity is now in its 10th year. Each year sees participation from roughly 120 students.

"The activity not only promotes environmental protection, but also improves friendship between young people from our two countries," said Wang Shaofeng, secretary-general of the Beijing Youth League Committee.

City gov gives thumbs up to private kindergartens

By Han Manman

The local government has started encouraging the operating of private kindergartens to relieve the overburdened early public education system.

Small kindergartens with 40 or more students and a 65-square-meter classroom can apply for government recognition, said Jiang Peimin, director of the Municipal Education Commission. Prospective private kindergartens will be expected to meet the same teaching and security standards of their public peers.

The move would formalize the many small kindergartens offered in residential communities and local offices, Jiang said.

Given the school shortage, kindergarten enrollment has become a fierce battle for many parents. Chen Jieying is one of many anxious parents struggling to find an affordable school for her son, who will soon turn 3.

"I get the feeling that it's even harder to get a spot in a kindergarten than it is to get a seat in the Beijing government. It also seems like kindergarten enrollment is becoming more expensive than my college enrollment," the 32-year-old editor said.

"I've tried three public kindergartens nearby, but their responses have not been encouraging," Chen said, noting their extremely limited capacity. The best kindergarten near her home

has hundreds of children on its waiting list, she said.

She said she considered a private or international kindergarten for her son, but the fees were too high, starting from 4,500 yuan per month. The schools say the high fees are necessary to employ foreign faculty.

Chen said the cost of these private schools was unbearable given she and her husband were already paying more than 5,000 yuan per month for their mortgage.

"I think our best hope is to find a small kindergarten within or near our living area," Chen said.

Gao Xia, a researcher at the China National Institute for Educational Research, said the government's decision shows it is

concerned with the imbalance.

She said Beijing has many densely populated areas like Tiantongyuan, where the local kindergartens can never meet residents' demands. New, small kindergartens opening in Tiantongyuan's residential communities could be a good solution for parents, Gao said.

However, she said the government's initial report does not clearly specify qualifications that will be expected of these small schools and their teachers. She said the government should consider subsidizing the schools that perform well.

According to official figures, there were 415,750 births in Beijing between 2007 and 2009. Most of

these children were old enough to begin attending kindergarten last year. However, the city's kindergartens could only accept 248,000 children as of last year.

The problems have been attributed to a shortage of educational resources, a baby boom in 2007 – the Year of the Golden Pig on the lunar calendar – and the 2008 Olympic boom, as well as uncontrolled rural-urban population flow.

To cope with the problems, the city plans to invest 5 billion yuan over the next five years to set up 300 kindergartens and expand 300 existing ones.

But even after the expansion, the city may be a long way from meeting local demand, Gao said.

AIDS-like disease may be in patients' mind

By Chu Meng

The Internet is a lightning rod for victims, creating new communities and support groups for every condition imaginable – and even some that are only imagined.

Since 2004, a group of people living with “HIV-negative AIDS” has been obsessively subjecting themselves to health checks seeking an explanation for their AIDS-like symptoms. All have a history of homosexual encounters.

Two years ago, they came to the attention of the Ministry of Health, which began investigating the illness of the group's 59 members.

After a final round of tests, the ministry said Monday that “HIV-negative AIDS” is a disease of the mind, not the body. But infectious disease specialists say it may be possible for the people to have developed AIDS with an HIV virus volume too small to appear on normal tests.

China's Ministry of Health checked sampling blood of 59 alleged HIV-negative AIDS carriers, all of whose results were negative.

On Monday, the Ministry of Health stated there is no evidence that the people claiming to be suffering from “HIV-negative AIDS” can have acquired the syndrome from the HIV virus.

Deng Haihua, a spokesman for the ministry, said there is no clinical, laboratory or epidemiological evidence that the patients are suffering from a severe infectious disease related to AIDS.

Deng's remarks were the first official response to a group of 59 patients who are reportedly experiencing AIDS-like conditions such as perpetually swollen lymph nodes, subcutaneous bleeding, joint pain, fatigue, night sweats and emaciation. All in the group tested HIV negative.

Medical checks negative

Since 2004, a group of patients have been seeking attention and treatment for what they call “HIV-negative AIDS,” a range of AIDS-like symptoms discovered through self-diagnosis.

The affected people reported a history of homosexual encounters preceding the onset of symptoms. However, not one of the people has tested positive for the HIV virus, and despite these negative results their AIDS-like symptoms have progressed.

As of 2010, the Ministry of Health had received 59 reports of people with the condition in Beijing and Shanghai, as well as in the provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Hunan and Guangdong.

In 2009 and 2010, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offered free HIV tests to the 59 patients. No evidence was found of HIV or any new virus.

The CDC performed a second test last May to check whether the patients were carrying xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV), a virus discovered in 2006 that is believed to be connected to chronic fatigue syndrome. The tests were again negative, and the CDC concluded the patients were not suffering from chronic fatigue.

To end the panic, the CDC collected and sent blood samples from each patient to the virus laboratory at the University of Southern California. The lab was unable to locate any new virus the CDC had missed.

“We are forced to conclude that ‘HIV-negative AIDS’ does not exist and there is no new unknown virus causing these patients' symptoms. It is our opinion that their condition is caused by hypochondria,” Deng said.

Zeng Guang, a top epidemiologist at the CDC, said the US lab had processed one third of the blood samples as of March 31.

“Since no new virus has been found, I firmly believe this group cannot be carrying a new human virus. The reason we sent the blood samples abroad is to prove to them



The people suffering from HIV-negative AIDS insist that their disease is real. However, recent tests in Beijing found no trace of a virus. Photo by Wang Shen



Deng Haihua, a spokesman for the ministry, dismissed panic about the “virus.” CFP Photos

that the illness is only in their minds,” he said.

Patients say it's not panic

Zeng, began contacting the patients through their Web support group in July 2009. It was at his urging that they reported “HIV-negative AIDS” to health authorities.

With two-thirds of the samples remaining untested, Zeng said there is still a chance the lab may find something the ministry missed. He said the patients are experiencing real symptoms which are not the result of a mental condition.

“I have AIDS-like chronic

fatigue syndrome. It has been clinically diagnosed. I believe that makes me living proof that AIDS is similar to this mysterious autoimmune disorder. And yet medical authorities appear unable or unwilling to acknowledge the possibility,” Lin Chang (pseudonym) wrote on his online blog.

And according to Lin, the condition is transmissible.

Two years ago, after a homosexual experience, Lin became seriously ill with what appeared to be the AIDS. Soon after, he became extremely sick and developed swollen lymph nodes, subcutaneous bleeding, joint pain,

fatigue and extreme weight-loss.

Three months later, his wife developed similar symptoms. The couple decided to send their 13-year-old son to his grandparents.

“I can pinpoint exactly when my undiagnosed illness spread from my body to another. I am the link in a chain of systemically undiagnosed, sexually-connected people. Whatever I am suffering, it strongly resembles classic HIV/AIDS disease,” he wrote.

He said many people with chronic fatigue syndrome do not like to talk about the immune abnormalities that they share with AIDS patients. Most patients would rather be told they have the loosely defined chronic fatigue syndrome than AIDS.

“I have a Master's degree. I am a director at my firm. I used to be a triathlete. I have never used drugs and I can count my sexual partners on two hands. I clearly know what I am experiencing and what I am saying. Why don't more people realize that HIV-negative AIDS exists, and why can't the medical community step up, admit this and find a way to help people like me?” Lin said.

Other possibilities

Infectious disease professionals said it is possible that the patients have AIDS, but at a lower virus volume than normal HIV-positive patients.

Wu Zunyou, director of the CDC's AIDS Prevention Department, said after the ministry's Monday announcement that medical tests, especially for such complicated diseases, are not absolute.

In an earlier yearlong blood test conducted by the Shanghai Institute of Virology last January, five people in the group were found to have some unknown virus, Wu said.

“What I can say is that it is definitely not the virus that we know to cause AIDS. The virus' sequence from the five blood samples is similar, but we need more time to study exactly what it is,” he said.

He said Beijing Ditan Hospital gave the group of 59 people psychological evaluations. Results showed that their mental health was significantly poor in comparison to the general populace.

“Given all the circumstances, we can easily conclude that these people, who rarely communicate with one another in real life, is due primarily to overreaction and blind panic and not to AIDS,” Wu said.

Art expo woos nation's talents

Foreign galleries not needed to set trade records

By He Jianwei

Earlier this month, Zhang Xiaogang's early 1988 piece titled *Forever Lasting Love* was sold at auction by Sotheby's of Hong Kong for HK \$79 million (66 million yuan).

It was a record-setting sale for a mainland contemporary artist.

Zhang's success may be a sign that the contemporary art market is finally recovering from a shakeup during the financial crisis of 2008.

But auctions aren't the only yardstick by which the market can be measured – gallery expositions may be even more accurate, as they provide a platform for galleries and collectors.

The China International Gallery Exposition (CIGE) 2011 will take place at the exhibition hall of the China World Trade Center from April 21 to 24. More than 60 galleries and 50,000 collectors, museum directors, critics, artists and curators are scheduled to attend.



Wang Yihan



China International Gallery Exposition (CIGE) 2011 is continuing its focus on Chinese galleries.

Crisis means opportunity to Wang Yihan, director of China International Gallery Exposition (CIGE).

Founded in 2004, CIGE was the first art exposition in Beijing and the one that has become known to international galleries and collectors. Before the economic recession, the number of international galleries in attendance was constantly going up.

Attendance peaked in 2007 with 118 galleries at the exposition. But things turned cold in 2008 and 2009. Due to the financial crisis, few international galleries attended the exposition – the yearly business volume was so dismal as to not merit an announcement at the event's close.

"After 2009, we started focusing on top-notch domestic galleries, because the Chinese art market has remained strong and the economic power of Chinese art has continued to grow substantially. China's growing consumption of luxury goods gives the local art market much confidence," Wang said.

Although international galleries quit coming and the number

of participants from the Sinosphere fell to 54, 2010 still saw many works sold.

Long March Space presented Yu Hong's painting *Romance of Spring*, a 12-meter-long oil painting inspired by the Tang Dynasty (618-907) painting *Court Ladies Preparing for Woven Silk*; it sold on the first day.

On Day 4, Wang Huaqing and Xiaobai Su's paintings from

tors is good for the market. With China's booming economy, it's part of the trend that contemporary works end up in the hands of domestic collectors," she said.

At Sotheby's spring auction this month, 105 works acquired over the last several decades by Belgian collector Baron Guy Ullens were auctioned for \$54.8 million (358 million yuan).

"Many tycoons have entered the art market, bringing in hot money and inflating auction prices," Wang said.

Zhang's record-breaking sale of *Forever Lasting Love* went to Wang Wei, the wife of billionaire collector Liu Yiqian. The couple has been very active at auction rooms during the past decade as they prepare to open a private museum in Shanghai.

Liu was a high school dropout who started a bag company in the 1980s. When China opened its financial markets in the 1990s, he gave up the business and put his money into the stock market, becoming a sudden millionaire.

Since then, he has collected classical paintings and antiques.

"The rise of domestic collectors is good for the market. With China's booming economy, it's part of the trend that contemporary works end up in the hands of domestic collectors."

the Tina Keng Gallery in Taiwan and all his works presented by New Age Gallery sold out.

CIGE 2011 is continuing the focus on Chinese galleries. "Domestic collectors have been showing up at global auctions since last year, and the international art market is taking notice. Their needs and tastes are sure to influence the market," Wang said.

"The rise of domestic collec-



More than 60 galleries will attend CIGE 2010.

Photos provided by CIGE

His wife, an avid drawer, began collecting oil paintings and sculptures in the 1990s.

The couple has spent a combined 1.3 billion yuan on art and has set many auction house records. They spent 169 million yuan to buy 18 *Buddhist Lohan*, a scroll painting by Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) painter Wu Bin in 2009.

They also set the record for the most expensive Chinese furniture when they paid HK \$85.7 million (72 million yuan) for a rosewood imperial throne from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) sold at Sotheby's.

Besides the billionaires, other tycoons like Shanxi's coal magnates and Wenzhou's businessmen, as well as their wealthy offspring, have been buying up art.

Some prefer to invest in younger artists. "I still remember that someone who was born into

money bought one of Gao Yu's painting in 2006. It was the first time that I saw a Chinese collector born after 1980," said Fang Fang, director of Star Gallery.

Wang said he hopes the domestic galleries continue to bring great works to the exposition, both those by established names and promising new artists.

At last year's exposition, some collectors complained that they brought millions of yuan but did not find a work worth buying. At CIGE 2011, there is a special space for exhibiting works priced more than 1 million yuan.

"I visited every gallery and selected high-level works. This special exhibition will help collectors to easily make a choice," she said. "I hope this will be the year the contemporary art scene rises from the ashes of the 2008 economic decline."

Just a concert, nothing more

Dylan plays it safe in China debut



Security personnel rehearse their morning drills outside Workers' Gymnasium, the venue of Bob Dylan's first concert. **Frederic Brown/IC Photo**



Bob Dylan in Beijing last Wednesday

Liu Xingzhe/IC Photo

Concerns about Bob Dylan delivering any controversial messages in his concert at Workers Gymnasium last Wednesday turned out to be unfounded, as the 69-year-old singer steered clear of politics during his two-hour show. Instead, he wowed the crowd with classics such as "Like a Rolling Stone" and "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall."

Although he turns 70 in May, Dylan was spry and in good voice, rocking the harmonica and the organ with a verve that had the mostly Chinese crowd up and clapping.

Security was tight at the show, though monitoring tends to be stringent at every concert in China. "Bob Dylan has a far more influential status than other foreign performers in China, and the social and cultural impact is greater," said Wei Ming, manager of the concert's promoting company, Gehua LiveNation.

"Beforehand, we thought that his audience would be small, that not so many people would be into Dylan here in China, but we were

completely wrong. It's not a niche audience, he has a mass following here in China," Wei said.

The Independent said given that he wrote the 1960s protest classics "Blowin' in the Wind" and "The Times They Are A-Changin'," you could be forgiven for thinking Dylan would have a problem in China.

However, given that much of his music attacks US foreign policy, his repertoire would traditionally garner sympathy in Beijing. Dylan stuck to a varied set list mixing his newer work and his older work, but there was nothing that could have ruffled official feathers too much.

Controversial artists are not

allowed in China, especially since Iceland's Björk shouted slogans supporting independence for Tibet at a Shanghai concert in 2008.

The folk legend was supposed to come to China last year but then he cancelled the Chinese, Taiwanese and Korean legs of his Asian tour. Wei denied there were political reasons for the cancellation of last year's show.

"This is an absolutely commercial deal; there is no political element," Wei said. "We are always organizing international musicians to play in China. We did The Eagles, now Dylan, and in May we will invite Avril Lavigne to come and play in Beijing and Shanghai."

(Agencies)

The third eye

Any performance can go smoothly as long as artists respect China's law and customs

By Li Zhixin

Bob Dylan's debut in China last Wednesday received lots of attention, as many people worried that his show would be blocked by the Ministry of Culture, given the American folk icon's anti-establishment reputation.

Since Icelandic singer Björk voiced her support for Tibetan independence while singing "Declare Independence" at a Shanghai concert in 2008, the ministry has kept tightened regulations on foreign performances in China.

Has Dylan's performance signaled that the Chinese government now welcomes foreign artists as long as they respect Chinese history, politics, customs and laws?

There is an old saying in China: it is always a pleasure to greet a friend from afar. In the last year, China has made every effort to introduce excellent foreign cultural products and services, and most foreign guests have been respectful during their stay.

Some European and American commentators criticized Dylan for not singing any of his "protest songs." But the reality is Dylan did himself a huge favor by steering clear of politics.

Overseas musicians should respect relevant regulations and customs, and understand that the Chinese government has always considered social stability as its priority. Dylan did exactly that.

The audience ranged from Chinese in their 20s – who may have viewed the performance by a titan of Western music as historically important – to expatriates in their 50s for whom Dylan will always evoke feelings of nostalgia.

– Duan Qigang, a senior editor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Academic Press

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Trade deficit looms

Country steps away from export-led growth

The nation saw a trade deficit of \$1.02 billion (6.66 billion yuan) from January to March this year, the first quarterly trade deficit in six years, according to figures released Sunday by the General Administration of Customs (GAC).

In comparison, there was a trade surplus of \$13.91 billion in the first quarter of last year.

The country's exports increased 26.5 percent year on year to \$399.64 billion in the first three months this year, while imports soared 32.6 percent to \$400.66 billion from a year earlier, figures from the GAC showed.

From January to March, the total value of imports and exports increased 29.5 percent year on year to \$800.3 billion, said the customs administration, adding that China reported a small trade surplus of 140 million dollars in March, on the basis of a deficit of \$7.3 billion in February.

Trade with the European Union, China's largest trade partner, jumped 22 percent year on year to \$123.7 billion in the January-March period, the GAC said.

Trade with the US climbed 25 percent to \$97.65 billion during that period while that with Japan rose 27.1 percent to \$80.78 billion.

Trade with countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations surged 26.1 percent year on year to \$79.34 billion in the first quarter this year, it said.

The GAC said China imported more mechanical and electrical equipment, including cars, iron ore and soybeans than it did in the same period a year ago, and that the prices of those commodities had shot up.

Spring Festival, the most important traditional Chinese holiday that was celebrated this year from February 2 to 8, also contributed to the trade deficit, analysts said.

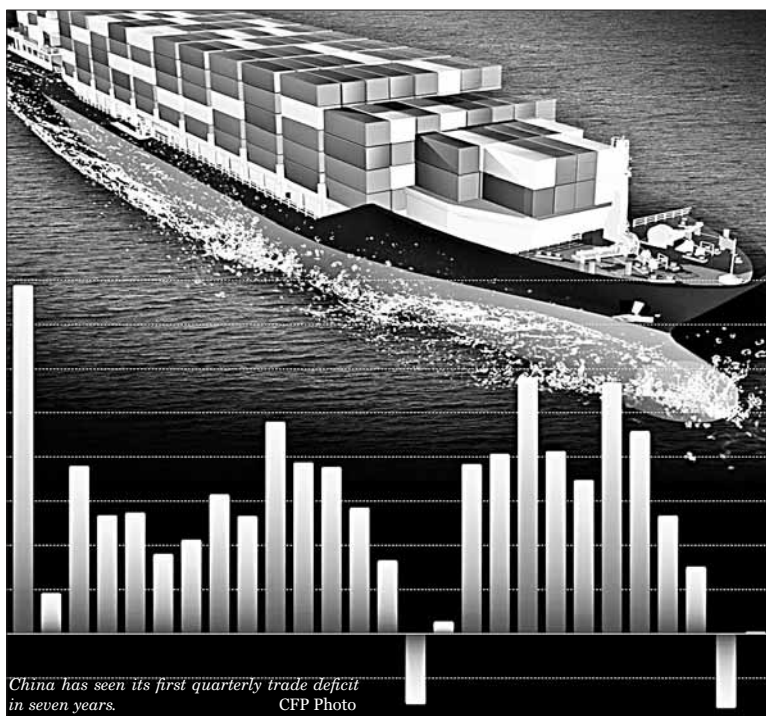
The quarterly numbers signaled that China's trade has struck a basic balance between exports and imports, and its trade policies of stabilizing exports while increasing imports has taken effect, said Li Jian, research fellow from the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation affiliated with the Ministry of Commerce.

Further, the trade data showed that China's economy was evolving in a more balanced direction, said Zhou Shijian, a senior research fellow at the Center for US-China Relations, Tsinghua University.

It also showed the yuan was not undervalued and that some countries' allegations of currency manipulation were false, Zhou said, adding that China has no intention to pursue a trade surplus.

The yuan hit a record high of 6.5456 per US dollar last Thursday, which means it has appreciated 1.16 percent against the US dollar since the beginning of the year.

(Xinhua)



Market watch

Domestic growth reform off to a good start

The quarterly trade deficit may be a relief to those worrying about global imbalances or domestic economic structures, said Hua Xiuping, assistant professor of finance at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China.

It is more or less a signal that China now is trying to step away from an export-led economic growth model, Hua said.

For the last three decades, the country has followed an export-led economic development model adapted from East Asian neighbors such as South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

But why pursue the growth of external demand rather than stimulate demand at home?

Hua said the reasons are simple.

First, having strong links to high-income markets in the US and Europe is important for economic growth in labor-intensive countries. Using best-practice global technology, one country can achieve faster growth in the traded goods sector than one can by growing the supply of non-traded goods for sale to domestic consumers.

Second, in order to absorb the surplus labor coming out of agriculture, developing and emerging markets like China had to pursue an export-led growth strategy and maintain undervalued exchange rates to facilitate this.

Third, noted by many economists, it also works as a public sector strategy of self insurance against future financial crises. The resulting surpluses of an export-led economic development model are intended to build up official reserves, to deal with outflows of domestic savings and a 'sudden stops' in capital inflows.

However, Hua said situations change.

Today, the rational choice is to continue export-led economic development in China, he said. "We will reform the domestic economic growth model; the quarterly trade balance figure is an excellent start." (Agencies)



Experts say the trade deficit may relieve the global imbalance.

Joe Raedle/CFP

Rumored Facebook-Baidu deal sparks speculation

By Huang Daoheng

The world's most used social network has long been locked out of the Chinese mainland, but recent rumors of a potential joint venture with local search engine giant Baidu have many wondering whether Facebook may finally be making its entry.

The rumor surfaced last Friday when a market insider wrote on his microblog that "Facebook is really to enter China this time." Media cited "a person familiar with the matter," saying that Facebook had signed a deal with Baidu to start a joint venture on the mainland.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's visit to Baidu's headquarters last December during his China tour was seen as further evidence of the rumor.

But Reuters reported Monday that the two have yet to reach an agreement. The report cited no sources, but Facebook said in a statement on Monday that the company is still "studying and learning about China, as part of evaluating any possible approaches that could benefit our users, developers and advertisers."

Facebook, with its 500 million users around the world, has been blocked on the mainland since 2009.

Baidu declined to comment on the deal. Shares of the company rose more than 4 percent to \$147.93 (966 yuan) on Monday after the rumors of a joint venture began getting press.

Despite the absence of an actual deal, market insiders remain confident of an upcoming partnership.

But what would the child of Baidu and Facebook look like?

Tom Lee, R&D director at Oak Pacific Interactive, the owner of Renren and Mop.com, said a new site forked out of Facebook could be possible.

Lee said Facebook will enter China eventually due to the company's global agenda. "Global dominance is crucial to Facebook's continued growth," he said.

But US companies have a hard time entering the China market without a local partner. Creating a joint venture may be Facebook's only way to make a splash on the local market, Lee said.

The social networking giant opened a sales office in Hong Kong earlier this year.

But Chinese users' response to the news has been cold. A random online poll by *Beijing Today* found that 8 out of 10 respondents said they would not use Facebook even if it entered China.

Lillian Lu, 27, a secretary at an American law firm, said she switched to similar domestic competitors like Renren and Kaixin. She has already invested a lot of time learning to use their platforms to communicate with her friends and colleagues.

Now a dedicated Kaixin user, Lu said Facebook would be arriving far too late to attract her.

Get rich or get lost

Local professor's money talk sparks dollar worship debate

By Huang Daohen

While young people born in the 1980s fret over the Confucian adage *sanshi erli* – stand firm and start a family at 30 – local professor Dong Fan is more demanding: at 40, you should have a fortune of at least 40 million yuan.

Dong Fan tells students to become millionaires.
CFP Photo



If you're not worth 40 million yuan by age 40, don't come see me or tell others that you were my student, said Dong Fan in a microblog post last Monday.

Dong, currently the director of the Real Estate Research Center at Beijing Normal University, said his main job is to foster students' awareness of wealth. "Only when you become rich are you able to contribute to society by offering more jobs and paying more taxes," he said.

"Poverty for highly-educated people

amounts to disgrace and failure."

Dong's money talk spread across the Web. As of press time, his post has been forwarded nearly 23,000 times and received more than 9,000 comments on Sina Weibo, the country's dominant microblog.

Reactions are divided. Many in support of Dong say the attitude is pragmatic in today's market-based society. But others criticized the professor on his sense of social morality and his own wealth.

Dong responded later on his microblog that his 40-million-yuan claim was just a way of pushing his students to study and work harder.

Dong, also a doctoral tutor, said he teaches students in this way because he has studied real estate and many of his students will enter the industry in the future.

"I am just talking about investment and management. It has nothing to do with moral integrity," he said.

High-speed rail vs. airlines

By Zhang Dongya

Starting April 1, flights between Wuhan and Nanchang halted. Not long before, flights between Wuhan and Nanjing were cancelled. According to a Xinhua report, with more high-speed railways opening, nearly 70 percent of the short flights from Wuhan, Hubei Province are being suspended.

From last May, all flights within Hubei Province, including the popular Wuhan to Wuchang and Wuhan to Xiangyang, were suspended. This month, most short flights within a flying radius of 600 kilometers in Tianhe International Airport in Wuhan were cancelled. Only those flying to Taiyuan and Yuncheng in Shanxi Province could get a ticket.

In addition, routes with an 800-kilometer flying radius, such as Wuhan to Guangzhou and Wuhan to Shanghai, have seen a decrease in passengers.

The Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed railway, which began running in 2009, is said to have taken a big chunk out of the aviation industry. On the launch day, 14 flights from Wuhan to Guangzhou were affected and ticket prices were cut.

The Wuhan-Beijing high-speed rail is expected to open later this year. Analysts believe it will cause a further drop of airline passengers to Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Guangzhou.

Also, the Wuhan-Yichang high-speed rail will be open by the end of the year, cutting the travel time from Hefei to Yichang from 13 hours to four.

Statistics show that during this year's Spring Festival, passengers on the Wuhan-Guangzhou high-speed rail increased 60 percent compared to 2010. Meanwhile, passenger volume in Tianhe International Airport dropped by 8.5 percent – the first time it's decreased in 23 years.

Comment

Quite a few people, including many parents, support Dong's attitude. Many of them think money should be tied with success. As an old Chinese saying goes, money isn't everything, but without it, you can do nothing.

Money cannot be ignored

I have a 7-month-old son. Though I won't put a threshold of 40 million yuan to encourage him to study hard in the future, money is an unavoidable topic when you talk about success. However, that does not mean you should earn money through fraud, corruption, murder or any other illegal means. There is nothing wrong with aspiring for money, and if you are successful, you will have more options for contributing to society.

– Chen Jun, bank accountant

Study hard for good pay

I admit that we should not judge people just based on how much money they earn.

However, I do believe it is disgrace for highly educated people to not be able to feed themselves. The people who choose postgraduate programs certainly aren't all doing so because they love studying. They want to get a high-paying job after graduation. Even though it is cruel to say so, we have to admit this reality. I don't think there's anything wrong with Dong's claim.

– Felix Flaig, managing director

A reachable goal for real estate elites

The crux of the issue lies in Dong's status as a professor. But critics may have mistaken his words. Dong claimed that his initial intent was to encourage his students to make more money. Since he teaches real estate courses, the goal of 40 million is not that large for the future elites in the business field. Nevertheless, at present, even elder intellectuals can't achieve that kind of wealth, let alone ordinary families. This is the root of people's discomfort with the professor's statement.

– Xiao Fang, editor

Dong's comment drew widespread criticism for his money-oriented educational values.

Academic success first

A college instructor's first and foremost job should be to help students achieve their academic goals instead of teaching them how to seek money. A teacher should teach his or her students about academic research and how to be independent: think independently and live on one's own.

– Antonia Zhang, college instructor

Criteria for success differs

What are the criteria for success? Money, of course, is no sole measuring stick. Even if a person has a 40-million-yuan net worth, if he's done nothing in other aspects, he would still be a failure. In contrast, if people do what they can for society but do not have big wealth, they also should be respected. I graduated two years ago, now I pay 500 yuan of taxes a month in a mid-sized city – I think I'm making contributions to my country.

– Fran Lee, media officer

Comment

Balance and overall consideration

The high-speed rail has a price advantage over the airlines. If viewed from the market perspective, the biggest beneficiary of the competition between the two industries is the consumer. However, the government should take an active role in managing the competition between state-owned companies in the airline and high-speed rail industries. The aviation industry has to adapt to this new situation, while high-speed railways should avoid excessive development. Even in some developed eastern regions, people are complaining that they are being forced to take the train because there are no other options.

– Song Songxing, professor at Institute of Commerce in Nanjing University

Too expensive

I've been in Wuhan for about two years and saw the fast construction of high-speed railways. The price is too high compared to ordinary trains. But with the nationwide construction of the new rails, especially in the south, many ordinary trains have been cancelled and we have no other choices but to take the expensive trains. My company only allows employees to take trains for business trips, but the high price is infuriating our boss.

– Vivi Sun, employee in Wuhan

Solve initial problems

High-speed railways have developed fast in recent years, but many problems have since emerged. Solving the problems now will be wise. The high price has to be controlled. For example, the stations should be built at reduced costs. Also, we can learn from the Hong Kong model: the governor gave some land along the rail to rail companies for real estate development. With more finance and lower costs, the ticket price will certainly go down.

– Gee, netizen

Behind the news

Money worship, a growing trend

Once upon a time, students in China were taught that money is not everything. But university students nowadays are gradually finding that money certainly helps.

And that trend really worries Zhao Xiao, economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing.

Zhao said the recent public outcry over Dong's claim was a reflection of the current soaring housing and food prices. But this also reveals a hidden crisis: that money worship is permeating the society and – what's worse – the country's education system.

An online survey at 163.com showed more than half of 125,000 respondents

said they would not consider their life a failure if they didn't make 40 million yuan when they turned 40, but they did view a certain amount of wealth as necessary as a symbol of success.

Less than 20 percent said they totally disagree with Dong.

"It is cruel but true that many parents, especially in rural areas, see higher education as a means to create wealth," Zhao said.

The latest statistics from Zhaopin.com, a job-hunting website, show that the average monthly pay is about 2,300 yuan for a new graduate and 3,200 yuan for someone with a postgraduate degree.

Zhao said there is nothing wrong with

students trying to make their own fortune, but there is a growing percentage who take wealth as the only sign of success.

Money worship was abhorred decades ago, but businessmen who created quick fortunes have been making headlines and becoming models for students.

"Consider that students no longer venerate scientists as my generation did," Zhao said. "That poses no less a threat to the nation than that of economic and environmental challenges."

Zhao suggested schools consider adding new courses that cover topics like philanthropy, corporate social responsibility or even public communications.



Tarun Singh, a fourth year student at Capital Medicine University

By Liang Meilan

China has displaced the US, Russia and the UK in the past five to six years as the most attractive place for foreigners to receive medical degrees – a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) – particularly students from countries like India, Pakistan and Nepal.

Favorable policies like low tuition rates and lower standards on qualifying exams have gone far to boost enrollment.

But controversy has swirled since a report by Southern Weekly revealed that hundreds of foreign students were cheated by seven medical schools, which issued non-state-approved diplomas in order to attract overseas students.

Seeking solace in Beijing

Tarun Singh, a 25-year-old man from Etawah, a city in the state of Uttar Pradesh in northern India, appears to be in a good situation. He is entering his fourth year of MBBS study at Beijing's Capital Medicine University, ranked No. 1 among 49 universities qualified to educate foreign students.

In the middle of his clinical studies in university-associated Beijing Friendship Hospital, Singh is on his way toward realizing his dream of becoming a doctor.

Born into a family of doctors, this was his destiny.

"No one is forcing me to study medicine. I just love it," he said. "Or maybe I should say I love it because I'm familiar with this profession and see its beauty."

After graduating from high school, Singh applied for top medical schools such as the American-run King George Medicine college, which is his parents' alma mater.

But Singh – to everyone's surprise – failed the exam. His last resort was to study abroad.

He chose China, despite never having visited the country. He learned from a friend in Jilin University in a MBBS program about the benefits of learning medicine in China, and after lots of online research, Singh applied.

"I thought it had to be good since the school is in the capital and ranks at the top," he said.

Singh – with his immaculate high school transcript – was quickly accepted. He paid the \$1,500 (9,800 yuan) to an agent and was enrolled the year after.

Diligent and gifted, the course-

China top destination for foreign medical students

Worries persist about quality of programs



Approximately 7,000 Indian students are in China, most studying medicine.

Photos provided by Tarun Singh



Activities being held for Indian students

work has gone very well for Singh. He has gotten used to the routine of napping in the evening so the rest of his time can be spent tending to patients and studying. He is preparing for the notoriously difficult but internationally recognized States Medical Licensing Examination next year.

"Not many students work hard and dare to take this exam," he said. "Thanks to the quality education and nice teachers in the school, I've gotten the preparation I need to."

But is Singh an exception to the rule?

"The respected social status and decent income of doctors is leading many young people in India to strive to be a doctor at any cost," he said. One of his Indian friends studying in China has already changed schools three times – all third-rate universities – due to shoddy schoolwork.

Win-win model

According to a McKinsey report, India has been on the receiving end of a boom in medical

tourism, as people from Western countries go there seeking medical treatment at a tenth of the cost as in their countries.

Each year, tens of thousands of students seek to get their medical degree abroad, seeking positions at hospitals that will ensure them decent lives.

But the high cost of attending India's medical schools – and the stringent application requirements – has led to prospective doctors going abroad for education.

China is a favorite destination, where medical schools charge about half of what Indian schools charge on a yearly basis.

And entrance exam requirements are lower. According to a report by the Indian embassy in China, of the approximately 7,000 Indian students in China, most are studying medicine.

For Chinese schools, raising their international prestige and improving education quality are major concerns moving forward.

"Since the turn of 20th century, China began to produce

many quality foreign students who study for MBBS degrees in many medical disciplines," said Miao Jingcheng, vice principal of Suzhou University. "The increase of international students is a significant way for the school to strengthen its international impact."

Last year, the first batch of Indian students majoring in medicine at Tianjin Medical University took part in a doctor license screening test held by the Medical Council of India (MCI).

Among the 6,000 test-takers from around the world, 24-year-old Saurabh Suman – a graduate of Tianjin Medical University – got the second highest score.

About 65 percent of students from Tianjin Medical University passed the test, a rate five times higher than that of students in India.

Education experiment

Tianjin Medical University and Capital Medicine University are role models for medical schools in China, which have all the latest medical equipment at their disposal.

Tianjin Medical University invested 160 million yuan and built the country's first English hospital for foreign students, complete with all the hospital divisions and ward facilities one would find at a foreign hospital.

"Teachers are all experienced Chinese doctors who have a certain amount of overseas experience, and all can speak English fluently," Singh said.

Recalling a teacher who patiently explained a question for him for three hours, "She was the most responsible and patient

teacher I've met," he said.

Singh said that he has spent his four years dabbling in systematic medical subjects as well as Chinese culture subjects.

"My six-month study of acupuncture was very enriching. It is amazing that Chinese people formed such a precise treatment back in ancient times," he said.

Other schools, however, are lagging behind in terms of both faculty quality and equipment.

Wang Zhizhong, a teacher from Ningxia Medical University, said that the language barrier has emerged as a big challenge for teachers.

"We ask students to help us by picking out our mistakes when we speak English. It is beneficial to both sides," he said.

But should medical schools be the place for teachers to receive language training – from their students, no less?

There is also the issue of internships. Most hospitals offer a long residency period for students, who get real-world experience learning from experienced doctors.

"Capital Medicine University is doing well in this respect by sending students to its affiliated hospital," Singh said. But schools in second- and third-tier cities may find it difficult to accomplish this.

And what happens when students graduate? Most Indian students return to their country to work.

Singh's goal is to be a pediatrician in the US. He is spending sleepless nights preparing to become a US doctor – and to gain all the riches that entails.

Brazil trade delegation seeks cooperation opportunities

By Liang Meilan

New Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff made a two-day state visit to China on Tuesday and Wednesday, traveling with a trade delegation to seek more contracts with Chinese companies. The country expects more Chinese investments in infrastructure and logistics.

Just before the president's visit, an important Sino-Brazil trade talk was held on Monday and attended by 24 Brazilian companies, 10 Brazilian trade associations and more than 130 Chinese companies, talking about cooperation opportunities in fields such as iron ore, energy, meat, fruit, fashion and soybean farming.

At a business seminar on Tuesday, Rousseff, who took office in January, said she hoped that healthy long-term commercial ties between the two sides could be sustainably developed.

She said deeper cooperation should be made in the management, service and creative industries, which are sectors full of opportunities.

"Investments in logistics are vital to boost Brazil's competitiveness and productivity, and we have long been and will definitely always be devoted to promoting such kinds of investment from foreign countries such as China," she said.

Rousseff said that with advanced technology in building railroads, China is welcome to help construct high-speed rails between Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

Alessandro Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex-Brasil), expressed that before the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil welcomes Chinese companies who have rich experience in stadium construction to invest or collaborate with Brazilian companies.

China's biggest foreign investment



Jacques Wagner (middle) showing Brazilian products to Chinese businessmen.

Photo by Tan Xin

and cooperation bank, China Development Bank, has provided 14.1 billion yuan in loans to Brazil as of March.

"To meet Brazil's construction needs before the two international events, the bank will actively promote companies from the two countries to make joint efforts in infrastructure like ports, power stations, railways and sewage disposal," said Chen Yuan, CEO of the bank.

Teixeira noted that this delegation's visit also sought to deepen Brazil's influence in China in terms of its products and services, gaining a strong foothold in the Chinese market.

"To achieve this and meet China's needs, value should be added to Brazilian export goods and trading structure should be improved," he said, emphasizing the way to maintain a long-term trade relationship is to diversify trade and upgrade technology, not just trade in the traditional sectors of energy, iron ore and soybeans.

"We are still finalizing the business

deals in a bid to diversify the trade pattern, and in this context, the agriculture area is very important for us," said Clodoaldo Huguene, Brazil's ambassador to China.

"Brazil is the largest meat exporter in the world and is expecting to export various types of meat to China," he said.

Concrete deals were made. Hu Junjie, CEO of Chongqing Food Corporation, signed a 5 billion yuan investment deal with Jacques Wagner, governor of Brazil's northeast province of Bahia, aiming to building a soybean industrial park there.

Over the past two years, the corporation has sent six delegations to Brazil and obtained systematic information required for building a high-grade soybean base.

"We also consulted McKinsey for the feasibility of the project and finally decided to collaborate with the province and construct a 18,000-hectare soybean planting base," Hu said.

Shanghai tops ranking of regional headquarters in Asia Pacific

By Zhao Hongyi

The overall Shanghai business environment ranks first compared with 24 Asian Pacific cities, including Hong Kong and Singapore, according to the latest survey by the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

The report said "Singapore performs best on many key selection criteria including favorable legal and regulatory environment as well as stable and favorable political environment."

Hong Kong is slightly behind Singapore and "remarkably strong in terms of administration, regulation and taxation."

The chamber listed five criteria in selecting 25 Asian Pacific cities for evaluation, namely closeness of relationship to clients and markets, legal and regulatory environment, political environment, business environment and tax environment.

Shanghai is doing well in improving the overall regulatory environment and bureaucratic burdens, ensuring the availability of qualified and experienced talent in sufficient numbers and having improved coordination between different regulatory bodies, according to the report.

In financial services, the report says the city needs to decrease the level of bureaucracy, implement stable and reliable regulations, and adopt international monetary and transparency standards if it aims to become an international financial center by 2020.

In maritime transportation services, the Shanghai port's current regulatory and operational characteristics demand particular improvements to ensure advancement into the league of truly international shipping centers like Singapore and Hong Kong, the report said.

The report recommended the city ease working and residential visa application processes for foreign managers and their families.

The 45 percent personal income tax and 30 percent corporate tax are weakening the city's attractiveness to foreigners, the report said.

Corporate taxes in Singapore and Hong Kong are 17 and 16.5 percent and income taxes are 20 and 17 percent, according to Yu Dahai, local board member of the chamber in Shanghai.

The inflexibility of the yuan is preventing Shanghai from becoming a world financial center, the report said.

The chamber has complained that single foreign investors are prohibited from taking shares from Chinese banks, such as the Bank of China, exceeding 20 percent.

In the industries of insurance, securities and funds, foreign investors are also forbidden to take shares exceeding 50 percent.

"This discourages foreigners to further participate in the development of these industries," the report warned.

But local experts believe the income tax and corporate tax are necessary in a big country like China. "We must keep the income gap in check," said Wang Jun, professor of economics at Peking University.

"The finding reflects China's growing importance in the world and the significance of Shanghai as the largest center of business and finance in China," said Piter de Jong, vice president of the European Chamber and Chairman of the Shanghai Board.

Of the 67 European companies in the region that responded to the study, close to two-thirds already have set up one or more headquarters in the region, Reuters reported.

Most of their Asia-Pacific regional headquarters are located in Singapore, followed by Shanghai, Hong Kong and Beijing. Some have headquarters in Tokyo, Bangkok and Guangzhou.

As an annual routine practice, the chamber, together with Roland Berger Strategy Consultants from France, which has its Asia Pacific headquarters in Shanghai, conducts a survey on economic outlook and obstacles in China.

PATA celebrates 60th anniversary in Beijing

By Han Manman

Beijing is considering setting up representative offices overseas to boost the city's tourism, and cooperation work is already underway in New York and London, Beijing vice mayor Ding Xiangyang said during a three-day Asia tourism conference held by the Beijing government and Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

The vice mayor said Beijing is now China's most-visited destination, with a record 140 million tourists, including close to 5 million international travelers. Tourism generated 276.8 billion yuan last year in revenue for the city's GDP.

Beijing's ambitions do not stop there. Ding said Beijing wants to double the number of international travelers before the end of the decade. And to become a world-class destination, "both the central government and that of Beijing will not hesitate to inject large amounts of money into tourism," he said. "We have a budget of 1 billion yuan per year just for the promotion of tourism."

With such a colossal budget, Beijing wants to capitalize on the recognition it gained around the world from hosting the Olympic Games in 2008. "We have a very scientific approach for the development of

tourism. We elaborate a 12-year master plan to turn our capital into a global city with Chinese characteristics," Ding said.

He said Beijing is currently studying the establishment of representative offices. Cities such as Tokyo, Osaka, San Francisco and New York already have a network of representative offices abroad.

"No decision has been taken yet, but we would like to be present in all major metropolises in the future," he said, adding that some cooperation work has already started with New York and London.

The most important event during the three-day meeting was one to celebrate the 60th anniversary of PATA, one of the three largest tourism organizations in the world.

"It is important to look at what the Asia Pacific region has gone through over the last 60 years as we shape the future of tourism," said Bill Calderwood, PATA interim CEO.

"In the early days of PATA, the Pacific was a little known area for holidays. Our association helped to change that perception as we transform this region into the world's fastest-growing destination," Calderwood said.

He said that in 1951, countries covered by PATA received as few as 100,000 visi-

tors a year. PATA now forecasts that some 556 million travelers will venture in the region this year alone.

Calderwood said his association helped raise a specific Asian vision of tourism, helped communicate on a global scale about the region, and also focused on developing tourism rather than formulating policies.

He said the Asia Pacific area has seen in recent months a string of catastrophes such as massive flooding in Australia, Sri Lanka and Thailand; a volcanic eruption in Indonesia; and earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand.

"We can counter negative effects by providing rapidly a task force able to speed up tourism recovery. Information must then be accurate, open and frequent to counter misinterpretation and misinformation," he said.

"The next 60 years will certainly be as exciting as the first 60."

PATA is a membership association acting as a catalyst for the responsible development of the Asia Pacific travel and tourism industry. China joined PATA in 1993, and Beijing has attracted about 1,000 delegates from 66 countries and regions and more than 400 organizations to participate.

Riding on their dreams

Beijing Harley owners get involved in charitable activities

By He Jianwei

Beijing Harley Owners Group (HOG) will organize a charity dinner next Saturday night at SOHO Shangdu for Smile Angel Foundation to help pay for cleft-lip operations for children.

The owners will auction off their goods, and the entrance ticket is 100 yuan. All the proceeds will be donated to Smile Angel, a Beijing-based charity founded in 2006 by the singer Faye Wong and her husband, actor Li Yapeng. The foundation is named after the couple's daughter, Li Yan, who was born in 2006 with severely cleft lip before she underwent surgery.

According to statistics, about 2.4 million children were born with a cleft lip or palette in China this year. The foundation has helped about 7,000 children by the middle of last year.

The charity has worked with nine urban hospitals to make a tour of remote areas every year, providing free operations to children of poor families.

In April 2006, HALEY-DAVIDSON's first authorized dealership in the mainland officially opened in Beijing. Six months later, the HOG Beijing Chapter was established with fewer than 30 owners. It has increased to 600, including both Chinese and expats between the ages of 20 and 60.

HOG has been involved in charitable activities since its establishment. The riders raised funds for the Safe Beijing project of UNICEF to protect children. They have participated in the May 12 Earthquake Aid, Forbes Charity dinner and Marriott Golf Day, all to help those in need.

"Although we have only a short history, all of the riders are enthusiastic about getting involved in charity events," said



Beijing Harley Owners Group riding to raise money for charity

Photo provided by Beijing Harley Owners Group

Yan Jianmin, chairman of HOG Beijing Chapter.

Last year, they rode to a village in Anhui Province and donated 100,000 yuan to help a primary school build its library. "The amount of money was not enough for them to build the infrastructure, but we can provide many books to the students," Yang said.

Most of the owners are well-off Beijingers, with many making 20,000 yuan a month at least. "We agree that wealth should be returned to society. As long as the members have free time, they take an active part in the events," he said.

Like other members, Yang is a motorcycle enthusiastic. Before Harley-Davidson entered the mainland market, he bought other brands. When Harley-Davidson was sold in the main-

land in 2007, Yang quickly got his first.

"I have always had a dream of riding on my motorcycle with the one I love. Harley-Davidson has fulfilled a big part of my dream," he said.

Besides charity events, culture communication is another attractive activity for HOG's members.

Earlier this month, Harley-Davidson began an art competition, providing a platform for cultural communication. Until May 10, it is collecting artwork by Chinese artists with the theme "From East to West." The winning works will be exhibited in the Harley-Davidson Museum in the US.

"Besides culture communication and charitable activities, riding is one of the main events in our chapter," Yang said.

In 2008, HALEY-DAVIDSON

organized the first riding tour of Shandong Province, when it opened its authorized dealership in Qingdao. More than 170 owners from China and the US gathered in Qingdao.

With the increase of owners in the mainland, in April 2009 the chapters organized several riding tours. The first China HOG National Rally was held in Taisan Mountain, Shandong Province, attended by 100 riders.

Six months later, when the rally took place in Taipinghu Lake of Huangshan Mountain in Anhui Province, the number of participants had increased to more than 250.

"For me, Harley-Davidson is not just a bike, but a lifestyle, a symbol of spirit and culture, a totem of passion, freedom, happiness, individuality and adventure," Yang said.

Event

Country fair

Little Donkey Farm, a community supported agriculture (CSA) farm, is undertaking a spring planting festival to raise awareness of healthy and environmentally friendly vegetables. Attendees should bring their own utensils and food containers. A portion of the proceeds will go toward earthquake relief efforts in Japan and Yunnan Province.

Where: Little Donkey Farm, west of Houshajian Village, Sujiatuo Zhen, Haidian District

When: April 16, 10 am - 4 pm

Tel: 6246 0405

Cost: suggested 10 yuan donation

Easter egg hunt

The Migrant Children Foundation is holding an Easter egg hunt on April 24 with chocolate, games and egg-citing challenges in four different venues, beginning at Camardo Caffe and finishing at a secret destination. Those who give a 50 yuan donation will get a free drink and snacks.

Where: Camardo Caffe, 38-4 Happiness Square, Xindong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 24, 7 pm - midnight

Email:

hannah@mcfchina.org

Cost: 50 yuan

Job fair for expats

Chinajob, a government-operated job-search agency, is holding the only job fair authorized by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of China in three cities: Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. More information can be viewed at jobfair.chinajob.com.

Where: 2/F Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: April 16, 9 am - 4 pm

Tel: 68468025

Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)

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Beijing starts gas security inspections in communities



A gas leak caused an explosion in an apartment complex in Chaoyang District Monday.

CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

As the prices of owning and renting apartments skyrocket in Beijing, more expats are moving to old residential communities where prices are comparatively lower and the rhythm of life easier.

But most of the old buildings in the residential communities built in the early 1980s and 1990s are not reliable in the eyes of city residents.

On April 11, an explosion rocked an apartment in Heping Dong Jie Community, near the Lama Temple, due to a gas leak. Six died

and one was injured in the blast.

The disaster prompted Beijing Gas – the only gas provider in the city – to do an inspection of gas pipelines, use of gas in restaurants and entertainment parlors.

Beijing had 2,915 fire emergencies in the first three months of the year, of which 37 were caused by gas leakages, according to the statistics from the municipal public security bureau, which supervises the fire department.

“As spring is coming, the number of fire emergencies will rise,” said Guo Shuyao, spokesman of the municipal fire

department.

Inspection of gas usage and pipelines will soon enter residential communities. Lectures and demonstrations on how to use gas will be held in many residential communities.

Beijing Gas is using the opportunity to promote safer gas equipment: a stove that automatically closes the gas valve when not in use, for instance.

The bureau will also try to persuade households to install gas detectors. Some have already been put into select homes on a trial basis.

“Due to the cooking style and habits of Chinese people, the detectors are always heavily taxed,” said Zhang Can of Beijing Gas. “Most of the detectors expire within a year even though they should be good for three years.”

Residents are being asked to update their gas cookers and pipelines as early as possible.

Potential renters are advised to check the gas pipelines of their prospective apartments.

If problems are found, call 96777. The fire department can be reached by calling 119.

Try your fortune in flea markets

By Li Zhixin

Panjiayuan is perhaps the most popular destination for secondhand and low-priced goods, but it's not the only one. Check out these other reputable secondhand markets in town.

Baoguosi Secondhand Market

Among the goods sold at Baoguosi are items from the Chinese Revolution and Cultural Revolution. Green uniforms can be seen everywhere – a bit camp, perhaps, but a great souvenir or present for someone living abroad.

Where: 1 Baoguosi Qian Jie, Xicheng District

Open: 8-11 am every day

Beijing Antique City

As the biggest antique art market in Asia, Beijing Antique City brings together more than 600 antique companies from Japan, South Korea, France, the

UK, Holland, Italy and Denmark. The goods they sell are mainly high-end artworks ranging from hundreds of yuan to millions.

Where: 2nd floor, 88 Dong Sanhuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am – 6 pm

Chengnan Flea Market

Chengnan Flea market features secondhand home appliances such as furniture, bicycles, baby cradles, bird cages and old-fashioned clock. One can find black-and-white televisions here, which can be a nice touch for homes needing a bit of antiquity. The price of goods in this market is also fairly cheap.

Where: 26 Caihuying Xi Jie, Fengtai District

Time to shop: 9 am – 5 pm

Pawnshops

Besides flea markets, you can also find nice secondhand articles

at low prices at pawnshops. Jade jewelry, brand-name watches, digital products and even cars can be found at these places.

Huaxia Pawnshop

Where: Xinchengwenhua Building, 11 Chongwenmen Wai Dajie, Chongwen District (100 meters south of New World Shopping Center)

Tel: 6708 1818

Website: huaxiapawn.com

Minsheng Pawnshop

Where: S109, Splendor International Apartments, 18 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6553 2662 / 2772

Website: msdd.cn

Jinbao Pawnshop

Where: 1 Huayuan Bei Jie, Xicheng District (west side of 109 Hunqing Building at Xidan)

Tel: 6653 0057 / 1550

Website: jinbaodd.com.cn



The antique market is a fun place to hang out on weekend.

CFP Photo

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I need braces, but I'd prefer not to be a metal-mouth. Are there any orthodontists in town who can install Invisalign or similar invisible braces?

There are many dental clinics that do ceramic braces – both in Chinese and foreign-run hospitals – like Arrail, Vista, Bayley & Jackson, Smile and United Family Hospital. Ceramic braces cost between 20,000 and 30,000 yuan, while the more “visible” variety is cheaper and starts at 10,000 yuan. Most foreign practices have English-speaking dentists. Try calling to arrange an initial visit and see what the dentist advises. It normally takes a year and a half to correct your teeth's alignment.

I'm thinking about getting a pure-bred kitten such as British, Burmese or Scottish folds, but I don't know where to buy or adopt. Do you have any suggestions?

Check out the pet shop near the north gate of Workers Stadium – Yiya Shijie Chongwuyuan (4 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District) – which has British shorthairs that cost around 6,000 yuan. You can try bargaining. It also has other pure breeds from time to time. The store is on the same side of the stadium. You can take Subway Line 2 to Dongsishitiao station, Exit C.

Where can I find a private martial arts instructor?

Try Circle of Iron, a martial arts training center in Dongdan, Dongcheng District. It provides both private and group lessons ranging from Pentjak Silat, Jeet Kune Do, Muay Thai, Kali to jujitsu. It also teaches practical self-defense and how to handle weapons such as knives, swords and sticks. Website: circleofiron.zoomshare.com

I'm interested in the “ground calligraphy” you see old folks doing in parks. Where can I buy the brush they use? Can you recommend a trustworthy yet inexpensive store?

There are many stationery stores around the China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), not far from Lido, which sell traditional painting materials. They also supply large brushes with sponge tips for ground writing. If you want a durable brush, pick one priced at around 200 yuan – but don't forget to haggle.

(By Liang Meilan)



Born to be a pioneer

Understanding life through the lens

By He Jianwei

New media is usually associated with young artists who have grown up in an electronic culture. But for the past decade, Wang Jianwei, recently 53, has been exploring the new worlds of video installation and modern sculpture.

Wang was the first artist invited to the contemporary art exhibition Documenta in Kassel, Germany and is regarded as one of the country's leading video and multimedia artists. He observes society through his camcorder lens.

His newest video installation, *Yellow Signal*, now on exhibit at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), reflects current reality in China.



Wang Jianwei has eight videos showing on four porches at UCCA's exhibition hall. Each entrance to a portal affects the way viewers will experience the images within. Scenes include a boring meeting, ping-pong, life in a migrant worker's dorm and a court hearing.

UCCA will be showing the first of four chapters in *Yellow Signal*, "Making Do With Fakes," now through April 26 as an installation of several thousand basketballs and a maze of linked hoops. The third chapter, "Internal Conflict," is a series of dynamic mixed-media installations set to open May 17. The final chapter, "Go to the Conference Room on the 13th Floor for a Free Film," uses a rubber staircase to create a "physically inaccessible space."

As the display is broken up, it will take four trips to the art center for viewers to fully understand Wang's message.

The idea for *Yellow Signal* came from an anecdote about how three-color traffic lights were first created in the US in the 1920s. "The yellow light was created to remove the need for police to switch the signal. It has the idea that the yellow light represents everything between permission and prohibition," Wang said.

In one scene at a migrant workers' dormitory, the workers drink, play cards and brawl while prostitutes next door wash clothes. "Both migrant workers and prostitutes

are marginalized groups. They live in this poorly-defined grey zone," he said.

Born in 1958 in Sichuan Province, Wang has practiced a variety of arts during his 30-year career, including painting and filmmaking. "I'm always experimenting with what's new," he said.

Wang enrolled in the China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province looking to expand on the impromptu painting he had done in the 1980s.

In 1987, he had graduated with a degree in oil painting.

As a college student, he won the golden award in the 6th National Art Exhibition in 1984, where he was recognized for oil painting.

In 1990, he made a surprising shift to installation, video and performance when few artists were exploring new media. "I always keep vigilant about exploring new things," Wang said.

Connections and relationships have been the key phrases of Wang's artistic vocabulary. His work could be interpreted as an attempt to discover and expose the connections between people and concepts rarely seen on the surface.

In 1992, he made the installation *Fires*, using intrusion

video documenting the social interaction taking place in public spaces in Sichuan Province and in investigating the personal space derived from the conversations within a tea house. This piece was screened at the 10th Documenta.

In 1999, he began documenting how farmland was being usurped and farmers driven into the big city in *Land*.

Since 2000, Wang has plunged further into experimental theater. His *Spider* series created in 2004 and 2005 was a labyrinth of offices, corridors and boardrooms filmed in one of the country's largest computer service companies. It explored the complexity of relationships, power and history within the context of corporate life.

The *Spider* series appears as a cross between document filmmaking, recording each performance from multiple angles and editing them together for a final cut. It put fictional performances into ordinary social environments.

"I'm not tired of experimenting with these kinds of works because I believe I was born to be a pioneer," he said. "Being a pioneer means making mistakes, but making endless mistakes is something you have to be prepared for."

His most acclaimed work is *Hostage*, made in 2008, a 32-minute, high-definition work that reconstructs daily life on a commune during the Cultural Revolution. The project was a lab for concepts and associations, where the ideas of history, utopia, symbolism and influence

ones were examined across diverse mediums including video, photography and sculptural installation.

"I thought the work was about the body and the long process of acquiring knowledge," Wang said. He attempted to "evoke a kind of memory that is purely my own through these works instead of being held hostage by outside experience."

His last project, *Output of the Labor Force on Timeline*, was a video installation that followed the protagonist who followed his parents in relocating from the village to the city. Through the connections between the protagonist and other characters, Wang questions the boundaries between the imaginary, the real and the fictional.

Despite Wang's use of many media, he rarely applies the label "crossover" to his experiments. "It creates misunderstanding when you call my work a crossover. When I adopt many media in my works, I prefer to call it 'intercommunication,'" he said.

Wang Jianwei: Yellow Signal

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China. Until June 26, daily except Mondays, 10 am - 6 pm.

Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 8459 9269

"I'm not tired of experimenting with these kinds of works because I believe I was born to be a pioneer. Being a pioneer means making mistakes, but making endless mistakes is something you have to be prepared for as an artist."

"It creates misunderstanding when you call my work a crossover. When an actor starts directing or a film director switches to theater, it's a change of professions – not a crossover. I adopt many media in my works, and prefer to call it 'intercommunication.'"



Wang Jianwei's *Yellow Signal* is a four-chapter video installation presenting everything trapped between permission and prohibition.

Photos provided by UCCA

New thriller channels the spirit of Hitchcock

By Charles Zhu

John le Carré's 22nd novel, *Our Kind of Traitor*, draws together British intelligence officers and Russian operatives in a Hitchcock-esque plot of exotic, life-threatening drama.

Set in the modern era, the characters of *Our Kind of Traitor* send text messages and find that they cannot visit the gardens of the Champs-Élysées because "Michelle Obama and her children are in town." The evil-doers are bankers, gangsters and money launderers.

His dark romantic hero, Perry Makepiece, is an innocent Oxford professor of English literature and an all-around well-accomplished tennis player, mountaineer and cross-country runner, and his girlfriend, Gail Perkins, is "a sparky young barrister on the rise, blessed with looks and a quick tongue."

The strikingly attractive and upwardly mobile British couple has been in love for five years, but Perry has yet to marry Gail.

The two head to Antigua in the Caribbean for some swimming and sex on the beach before hitting the tennis courts. Having made it to the Masters, Perry is something of a tennis stud. But it's on this court he finds a new rival named Dima, a "muscular, stiff-backed, bald, brown-

eyed Russian man of dignified bearing in his middle 50s." Dima is an extremely rich and well-connected Russian magnate.

With their match set for the next morning, Perry and Gail show up at 6:45. Perry wins. Perry and Gail later meet Dima's wife, Tamara, who is always seen wearing a "bishop-grade Orthodox cross" around her neck, and their twin sons, daughter, and two young girls by Dima's best friend.

During a birthday party for the twins, Dima and Tamara surreptitiously slip Perry a note that reads: "Dmitri Vladimirovich Krasnov, the one they call Dima, European director of Arena Multi Global Trading Conglomerate of Nicosia, Cyprus, is willing to negotiate through intermediary Professor Perry Makepiece and lawyer Madam Gail Perkins a mutually profitable arrangement with authority of Great Britain regarding permanent residence of all family in exchange for certain information very important, very urgent, very critical for Great Britain of Her Majesty."

Dima asks Perry to help him flee to the UK in exchange for secrets from the Russian underworld.

Dima is not only the chief of a big criminal enterprise, the Seven Brothers, but is also a thief. He

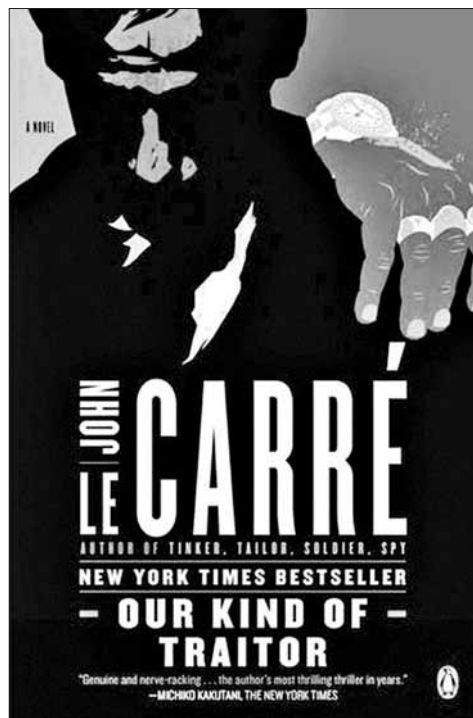
survived 15 years in a Soviet gulag and was a member of "a brotherhood of criminals sworn to abide by a strict code of conduct" – an "aristocracy far removed from street ruffraff who have never known a law."

Brought to Switzerland, the once loyal member of Russia's gangster families is made to spill every secret about his "brothers" and clients alike, from Moscow to Paris, Berne and London.

Perry, tired from 30 years of academic life, sees Dima as his opportunity for adventure. Hector Meredith, one of the intelligence service's top men, knows exactly what to say to Perry to get him to commit fully.

Perry stumbles step by step into the bowels of the secret state he once despised, led not by any sense of duty but by the curiosity of "the slumbering romantic in him." Soon Perry and Gail are in gloves with the British secret service trying to get Dima and his large family to England.

Le Carré's execution is perfect. The suspense and drama in *Our Kind of Traitor* is thick as he tracks the efforts of Gail and Perry and Luke, another intelligence officer, to negotiate a deal between Dima and the intelligence service to take the family safely into the UK.



Our Kind of Traitor

By John le Carré, 320pp, Penguin, \$15

Fragments from a Turkish literary master

By He Jianwei

Turkish Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk is a big fan of German philosopher Walter Benjamin, whose works were known for being pieced together from many brilliant fragments.

That appreciation shows in *Other Colors*, his first book since winning a Nobel Prize in 2006. The book collects ideas, images and journeys of the imagination written during the last three decades. The title follows the pattern of Pamuk naming his novels for colors, such as *The White Castle*, *The Black Book* and *My Name is Red*.

Pamuk talks about getting his first passport, the death of his father, the childhood of his daughter, his enthrallment with writing, his struggle to quit smoking, his first trip to Europe and the influence of other writers.

While that may sound autobiographical, the book does not follow biographical style. Instead, he weaves his memories into essays, literary reviews, speeches, interviews, art criticism, notes on creation and a short story, creating a cohesive picture of his life as a writer.

Literature is one of his enduring loves. Like French novelist Marcel Proust, Pamuk has spent decades in the same room reading and writing.



Other Colors
By Orhan Pamuk, 487pp,
Shanghai People's Press,
36 yuan

In an interview with the *Paris Review*, he told its writer that he could not live without a "daily dose of literature." Patience and persistence are two elements that a good writer requires and, like the Turkish idiom says, his creative process is like trying to dig a well with a needle.

Istanbul is his other love. He spends two chapters describing the experience of surviving its 1999 earthquake that killed 30,000 people. He depicts the happening as "a rowboat caught in a stormy sea," and describes the aftermath.

Turkey is a country straddling the border between Europe and Asia. Like many intellectuals living along that divide, Pamuk obsesses over cultural identity – a theme ever present in his essays and literary reviews.

He writes of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's confusion in *The Possessed*. The Russian writer was a mirror for Pamuk, who is anxious to see his country Westernized and modernized. "Dostoyevsky didn't see himself as a Westerner, but he was fascinated with Western civilization. He felt like he was living between two worlds."

Unlike in many of his other novels, *Other Colors* is written in a simple and persuasive style.

Timezone 8 book listing

Timezone 8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it recommends three new titles to *Beijing Today* readers.

Zhang Huan

By Yilmaz Dziewior, 158pp,
Phaidon Press, 307 yuan

One of the most important and innovative artists in contemporary China, Zhang Huan brought the burgeoning Chinese art scene to international attention in the 1990s with a series of taboo-breaking performances. He continues to explore the tragedies of the human condition and the spiritual essence of Buddhism through photography, painting and monumental sculpture.

The Chinese: Photography and Video From China

By Annelie Lutgens and Karen Smith, 152pp, Hatje Cantz Publishers,
264 yuan

Photography, a

major fixture of Chinese art, has become the top medium for representing rapidly changing social realities and the problem of identity. This lavishly illustrated volume presents 18 photographers and their works, and offers unprecedented insight into the nation's lively photography scene. The authors shed light on the issues facing Chinese society: rapid urban growth and the clash of socialist culture with a world of capitalism and consumption.

Community of Tastes: Chinese Contemporary Art since 2000

Edited by Iberia center for Contemporary Art, 311pp, Timezone 8,
378 yuan

This book looks back on the exhibition "Community of Tastes," presenting works by 29 established and emerging artists. Its pages briefly summarize the past few decades of contemporary art.

(By He Jianwei)



趣味的共同体
COMUNIDAD
DE GUSTOS
COMMUNITY
OF TASTES

Garbage bag gifts a design hit



Curious bags

On any other day, a gift of garbage might seem strange. But it was April Fool's when the curious bag landed on the desk of Ke Yang, an accountant of five years at Deloitte's Beijing office. At first she thought it was a bad joke and planned to return the bag to the express courier – then she saw the note reading, "Please don't throw me away."

Curious, Ke opened the garbage bag. Instead of dirt and filth, she found a recycled-paper notebook, a baseball cap, a pair of earphones, an iPhone 4 case and a box of matches.

The garbage bag was sent by a friend who bought it at Okjee.com, a new Web shop selling creative design products. The gift was intended to help her lighten up and get through the day.

"It really worked. I was happy throughout the whole day after that," Ke said. "Long hours have robbed me of free hours and fun. The garbage bag came as a much needed surprise."

Since then, Ke has been shopping at Okjee to purchase similar garbage bags for herself and her friends.

"It is the excitement of expectation and uncertainty that attracts me. Whatever comes is usually worth the price. The designs are smart and the price is good. And the endless guessing makes it feel like a birthday gift," Ke said.

Bags of ideas

Okjee's "garbage bags" are randomly matched groups of products shipped in stock black garbage bags. The bags come in sizes ranging from small to luxury and are priced from 9.9 to 99.9 yuan. The store also sells a super-deluxe bag priced 999.9 yuan.

"Most customers will get between four and eight gifts depending on the size of the bag they order. The super-deluxe garbage bag is the size of five pillows and contains only products designed and sold by Okjee – things like hand-made leather book covers," said Qiu Lifei, founder of the website.

All the products feature creative designs or funny lifestyle ideas.

They contain an assortment of daily groceries, office supplies and stationeries, digital product accessories, clothes and charity goods.

"Some are products from our affiliates in the US and Germany, but most are designed by Okjee's team of independent designers," Qiu said.

The medium-sized garbage bag priced 19.9 yuan is the most popular and contains five top-selling products. The whiskers hat was the top-selling item of all time, with more than 100 sold within a week. The hand-knitted wool hat is designed to cover the ears as well as the whole jaw.

"It looks distinctive and funny when people wear it, but it is very functional in winter. It was designed by a few Taiwanese designers with whom we cooperate," Qiu said.

Another star product is the Picobaby robot mobile phone chain series. The robot, the size of an adult's thumb, is made of metal parts from obsolete home appliances. It can also be split up and turned into a necklace, earrings, bracelet and pin.

These days, Okjee is selling several hundred garbage bags each day – often more than 1,000 during festivals. But it's the concept that is the key selling point.

"The goal is to use our designs to give stressed-out workers a break from their pressure and a creative moment in their otherwise repetitive days," he said.

Native design platform

But Okjee has a bigger goal: to become a third-party platform where domestic designers can see their ideas turned into real products.

Before starting the store, Qiu worked as an advertisement designer and co-founder of an ad company. As early as 2000 he noticed that the country's most creative domestic designers were struggling to find channels for getting their designs onto the market.

"At that time – even now – there was no well-established marketing mechanism to foster independent design in China. Even famous designers were left to grovel for financial support, and it was rarely enough to meet the needs of their consumers," he said.

Looking to tap into that hole, Qiu opened Okjee in 2009 to sell creative daily goods. "I decided we would operate like an agent. We contact the designers. We find the material. We manufacture and sell it. This frees up our designers to focus on what they are best at: design. And in return, we split the profits," he said.

But business was bad at the start, trapped as it was by the nation's sea of cheap counterfeits. Good design is an intellectually challenging job, and well-designed products take longer to produce and tend to cost more when they hit the market.

But once the product appears online, it is quickly copied.

During the first six months, Okjee received only 10 orders per day. The company's storage area filled up, and soon there was no money left to order more products.

It was an employee, inspired by British greek websites, who suggested selling off the leftovers at bare-minimum prices. To further pique their customers' curiosity, the staff decided to sell off blind assortments of its products rolled into black garbage bags.

Daily orders quickly increased from tens to hundreds, and within several months the stock was gone.

Today, Okjee's business is being cloned by several Taobao stores. But Qiu isn't worried. "Being copied is like having someone admit your idea is awesome. Only good ideas attract copycats," he said. "We'll just have to try harder to be even more creative."

By Chu Meng

Forrest Gump famously compared life to a box of chocolates in the 1994 movie, but if he was in China, he might have compared it to garbage bags.

A new online store is selling garbage bags stuffed with a random selection of original products. Amazingly they have been a huge hit, completely cleaning out the store's stock of wild creations.

For customers, the fun part is never knowing what you're going to get.



Hand-made leather pen case



Whiskers hat



Wood matches



Key case



Picobaby robot



Automoblox assemble car

Photos provided by Xu Xiaoshan

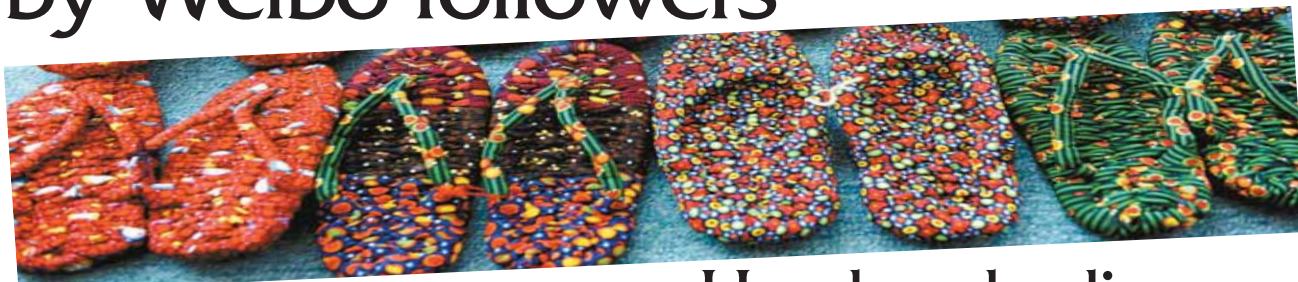


Okjee's Chief Business Operator, Qiu Lifei

Unique products recommended by Weibo followers

By Annie Wei

Beijing Today scouts interesting products and stores introduced on Weibo before their official launch.



Tian Yu's slippers, 50 yuan

Handmade slippers

Between July 2009 and May 2010, 12 employees of Foxconn Technology Group's Shenzhen factory jumped to their deaths. The suicides captured international attention.

Tian Wu, a 20-year-old woman from Hubei Province, was the third person to jump.

She survived.

The fall left her paralyzed, however. Chen Yuanzhong, a journalist from the daily newspaper *Shenzhen News*,

decided to help Tian after interviewing her.

He bought her books from Hong Kong about how to make slippers and encouraged her to make a difference. Tian has made lots of slippers since, and Chen and other volunteers have decided to help Tian sell her shoes at 50 yuan each.

Chen said that there is an imbalance in today's society, where rich young people enjoy the latest technology products, many of them made by migrant workers of the same age who work 15 hours a day just to survive.

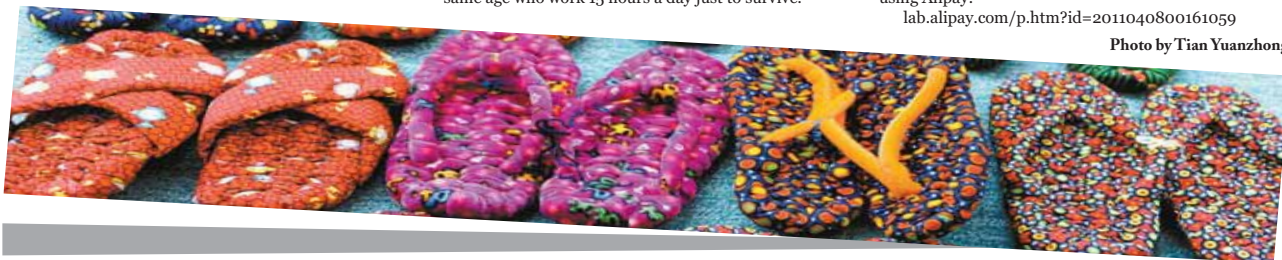
He helped Tian because it was the least he could do, Chen said.

The book that Chen bought for Tian teaches a traditional Japanese method of making slippers. Making a pair takes 66 steps. Tian and her family can only make four or five pairs a day.

Many Weibo followers said 50 yuan per pair is too cheap for such quality. Chen said they might adjust the prices in the future. Anyone interested can purchase using Alipay:

lab.alipay.com/p.htm?id=2011040800161059

Photo by Tian Yuanzhong



Consignment store at 798

Qiao Xiaodao is a minor celebrity among the country's younger generation. In his 30s, he has successfully turned himself from a former migrant worker into a music artist and founder of Weibozhiyan, a non-profit organization to help people achieve their dreams.

This week, Qiao announced on Sina Weibo the opening of a small consignment store at 798. The store, just 30 square meters, sells vintage items, original products and used furniture.

Qiao also posted some good deals on his Weibo with photos, such as two vintage single sofas with a table (680 yuan), accordion (350 yuan), a wood cabinet with 20 small drawers (200 yuan) and a blue velvet-like sofa (1,500 yuan).

He also welcomes anyone interested to consign their products at his store.

Wuwang Zahu

Where: Floor 3, E03, Qixing Dong Jie, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am - 8 pm
Tel: 5978 9627



Accordion, 350 yuan



Qiao Xiaodao's consignment store



Wood cabinet with 20 small drawers, 200 yuan



Wine skin, 45 yuan for two

Photos provided by Weibo.com

Wine skin

Wine skin is for transporting wines - from Bordeaux or California or wherever - in your suitcase.

The bag is lined with bubble wrap to prevent breakage. Even if it does break, there is a tight seal that ensures the liquid won't stain the rest of your luggage.

Wine skins may not be easy to find in Beijing, but Taobao has a solution. *Beijing Today* found a vendor who sells wine skins from 1.9 to 2.5 yuan each (depending on how many you order). Minimum orders start from 50. A free air pump (20 yuan value) comes with the order, and delivery is free.

The store also sells airtight bags in different sizes.

Qizhu Biaoju

Website: shop60478043.taobao.com
Tel: 13129375637 for Mr. Liu
QQ: 416515997

Beijing Today welcomes product and store recommendations from our readers. Please contact Annie Wei at weiyang@ynet.com.

Photos by Qiao Shoumin

Southern food wrapped with memories

By Annie Wei

As the cynical food critic in *Ratatouille* knows all too well, food is entwined with memories. *Beijing Today* introduces you to an online kitchen that sells mom's cooking and welcomes nostalgia, and IFW's new menu of traditional dishes given a modern twist.

Changsha flavor at your doorstep

Youwei Chufang is an online home kitchen on Taobao devoted entirely to the cooking of Changsha, capital of Hunan Province, with cuisine known for its spiciness, fragrance and strong flavors.

As a home kitchen in Changsha, the chef is a mom who considers her customers her family: all ingredients are meticulously selected, using only quality soy sauce, sesame oil and peanut oil. No preservatives or food coloring is added.

If you are buying Hunan snacks or local produce, the store will send out your order on the same day. Cooked dishes must be ordered a day in advance.

There are two types of food packages: local snacks and produce are wrapped and delivered in plastic bags; cooked dishes come wrapped in foil paper and special vacuum bags.

The shelf life for all dishes is 10 days if kept refrigerated.

Recommended dishes include chili pigeon (59 yuan for 250 grams), with chili, pepper-corns and peanuts. Each serving comes with an entire pigeon that is tender and a bit spicy. The peanuts aren't as fresh as they would be if they came straight out of the wok.

Spicy bullfrog (29.8 yuan for 200 grams) is another must for anyone who likes Hunan cuisine. The kitchen's bullfrog uses a lot of herbs, with a strong fresh basil fragrance.

Sliced, cured pork with flecks of chili and fermented beans (22 yuan for 200 grams) is worth the money. The cured pork is prepared by the owner's father. He bought free-range pig and slowly cures it for 15

days with orange peels.

The kitchen's little secret is that each package actually weighs more than the listed weight. "My mom does the weighing, and she thinks that's the right thing to do," says owner Wei Xiao.

We also recommend snacks like crispy horse beans (5.9 yuan for 120 grams) and homemade dry dates (2 yuan for 40 grams).

The kitchen's service is quite attentive. Wei advises customers to place their orders in hot water for 15 minutes instead of microwaving, which might dry up the meat.

For those who don't like spicy food, tell the kitchen not use chili. "Medium" spiciness for Changsha people is usually too much for regular diners, as those from Changsha prefer strong flavors.

Delivery costs 10 yuan for less than 1 kilogram.

Website: youweichufang.taobao.com



Chili pigeon, 59 yuan for 250 grams



Spicy bullfrog, 29.8 yuan for 200 grams

CFP Photos



Wok-fried smoked pork, 60 yuan

Photos provided by IFW



Clay-pot pork sausage rice, 18 yuan



Lychee creme brulee, 35 yuan



Hunan fermented tofu, 35 yuan

IFW's new Chinese menu

The restaurant IFW on the ground floor of Yintai Plaza recently entirely changed its menu to focus on modern Chinese cuisine.

All dishes use fresh ingredients to blend contemporary flair with traditional Chinese recipes.

We recommend chrysanthemum cress, sesame beef salad and garlic chips (65 yuan), a starter similar to its former Italian raw beef salad, but the strong sesame paste gives it a different flavor.

Unlike steamed scallops with bean vermicelli found at seafood restaurants, IFW's new Sichuan spicy scallops, sesame, peanuts and celery cress (100 yuan) is a cool dish. The scallops are fresh and retain strong flavors of sesame, peanuts and chili. However, 100 yuan for four scallops is a bit pricey.

We love wok-fried smoked pork (60 yuan), a combination of northern and southern tastes. Smoked pork is popular among diners from Hunan, Yunnan and Guizhou provinces, while wok-fried Shangdong leeks with meat is in the Beijing style. The dish comes out great, especially with the dry bamboo shoots.

We also ordered Hunan fermented, crispy tofu with spicy bean paste (35 yuan), chicken soup prepared with Yunnan mushrooms, dried scallops, wolfberries and Shaoxing wine (35 yuan per person) and grilled Mandarin fish (150 yuan). The fermented, crispy tofu does not reek like the kind sold in the street. The Mandarin fish comes in a big serving as well.

Honestly, the dishes are a bit expensive.

For people who like IFW's refined ambiance but want more affordable dishes, we recommend its steamed clay-pot pork sausage rice (18 yuan for a small bowl) with taro and young ginger, paired with one or two other dishes. A bowl of braised pork ribs with homemade "belt" noodles (55 yuan) can be shared among three people. The Shaanxi-style noodle tastes delicious.

For dessert, the green tea cake (70 yuan) is enough for five to six people. If you are quite full, we recommend the lychee creme brulee (35 yuan), which has received good reviews from almost everyone who has tried it.

We also recommend the fruit salad (55 yuan). Apart from fresh-picked fruits like strawberries, kiwis and melons, we love the dry plum powder on the side. The dry plum powder reminds us of a snack from the south in the late 1980s. Food vendors dried up plums and ground them into powder, packaged them into tiny plastic bags with cartoons on them and sold them along with a small plastic spoon for 0.1 yuan.

Try the all-you-can-eat buffet on week-ends (328 yuan), with 50-some dishes and free-flow sparkling wine and beer.

The restaurant kept its interior the same. Diners can still watch as chefs chop, fry and grill in the open kitchen.

IFW

Where: Lower ground level, Park Life, Beijing Yintai Center, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm, 5:30-10:30 pm

Tel: 8567 1838

Mongolian calligraphy revives ancient language

By Zhang Dongya

Mongolian artist Samandbadraa Purev, better known as Tamir, brought his calligraphy to Beijing earlier this month. His work is in the Uighur script, which was the language's dominant written form between the 8th and 15th centuries.

"I have held many exhibitions in Japan and Europe, but this is the first time in Beijing," Tamir said. "The ink, brush and paper I used were all from China. China is the homeland of calligraphy, and it is a big honor for me to be here."

Born in Ulaanbaatar in 1976, Tamir first learned calligraphy from his grandmother. Later he became a student of a great calligraphy master in Mongolia.

Tamir said there are no professional schools or classes that teach calligraphy in Mongolia, and that the system and structure of teaching is different from China. There are only a few recognized "masters" of calligraphy, who can choose to take on apprentices as they see fit.

Tamir said there are only five masters of calligraphy in all of Mongolia. The good news is they are still relatively young: the oldest is only 50 years old, while most are in their 30s and 40s. Tamir's teacher was 40 when he

took on Tamir; now Tamir is a master himself.

Tamir's work features maxims that have played an important role in the Mongolians' nomadic way of life, and tells stories of the culture and old legends.

The Uighur script, which bor-

rowed from Aramaic, uses a Semitic alphabet. It is written and read vertically, similar to traditional Chinese vertical writing.

Very few ancient Mongolian documents in the Uighur script have survived. Of the few is a letter addressed to King of the France Philip the Fair by Khan Oeldjaitu in 1305, which is kept at the National Archives of France in Paris.

The alphabet plays a critical role in Tamir's work. In one piece called *Horse*, the script reflects the energy of horses, symbolic of their power and grace.

Tamir also wrote about

wolves, mountains, the moon and sunlight – all important elements in Mongolia. There are two works called *Wolf*, written in different styles.

"When I was creating wolves, I kept thinking about a Mongol legend," he said. "The two wolves imply that our country will develop infinitely in all directions."

In *Moon*, Tamir writes about a memory he had of riding a horse when he was a child under moonlight. "I can see all the mountains by the moonlight. But if the moon fades one day, all goes dark and I cannot proceed on my way. The moon is like a friend when I am traveling."

"This script and writing is not used in Mongolia now," Tamir said, as Mongolia now uses the Cyrillic alphabet. "I hope [the Uighur script] will officially be used in the future, because it's our real culture."

Mongolian Calligraphy

Where: Yishu 8 Gallery, Cable 8 Factory, 8 Langjiayuan, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 18, daily except Sunday, 10 am – 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6581 9058



Friday, April 15

Exhibition Diane von Furstenberg – Journey of a Dress

This exhibition shows portraits of Furstenberg – designer, collector and icon – taken by some of the most celebrated artists of the past four decades, including Andy Warhol, Francesco Clemente and Helmut Newton.

Where: Pace Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 14, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9781

Movie Hi, Dharma (2001)

This South Korean comedy is about five gangsters escaping after a bloody confrontation and hiding in a Buddhist monastery. The monks promise that if the gangsters can win three out of five contests, they can stay.

Where: China Film Archive,

3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District
When: 7 pm
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 8229 6153

Nightlife Ataraxia

This Italian neoclassical band draws inspiration from Greek and Latin myths, combining modern technology with archaic instruments.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 100 yuan advance purchase, 120 yuan at the door
Tel: 6402 5080



Saturday, April 16

Exhibition Wing's Voice – Xin Luoting Solo Exhibition

This exhibition presents

Xin's oil paintings about the "good old days."

Where: Yan Club Art Center, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until May 6, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3622

Movie The Camel Bookmobile (2010)

This documentary follows the journey of a mobile library from Kenya across Africa, where most people have never held a book because they live daily with drought, hunger and disease.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, north section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District
When: 4:10 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008

Nightlife Input and Output – Chinese Trip-Hop

This is the first solo concert by Chinese singer Wang Feifei in her 10-year career. She presents trip hop music, mixing different art forms together, including poetry, drama and installation.

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: February 5-7, 7:30 pm
Admission: 380-580 yuan
Tel: 6468 3311

Sunday, April 17

Movie Demonlover (2002)

Directed by Olivier Assayas, this French thriller film is about spies within several companies bidding for financial control of a Japanese anime porn company.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 6:30 pm
Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife The Land Is My Study

Taiwanese folk musician Lin Sheng-xiang plays Hakka music, emphasizing family values and a love of the land.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 30 yuan
Tel: 5205 1112

Exhibition Samsara – Wang Mian's Solo Sculpture Exhibition

Through the depiction of a celestial wonderland, Wang creates a realm of samsara – literally meaning "continuous flow" – against the backdrop of cultural colonization and the corrosion of material desire.

Where: Art Season, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until May 8, 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9850



Upcoming

Nightlife Silver Ash

This local rock band is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Where: Mao Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: April 21, 8 pm
Admission: 50 yuan advance purchase, 60 yuan at the door
Tel: 6402 5080

Stage in May

Concert

Anne-Sophie Mutter Violin Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 2, 7:30 pm
Admission: 280-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Peter Ritzen Piano Recital

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 6, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-580 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Les Petits Chanteurs de Saint-Marc Choir

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District
When: April 8, 2 pm and 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-580 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Piotr Anderszewski Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Dance Offering / Fragrance presented by Beijing Modern Dance Company

Where: Theater Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 18-19, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-400 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Butterfly Metamorphosis

Where: Fengchao Theater, 200 meters east of Oriental Ginza, 12 Shizipo, Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 3-15, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-200 yuan
Tel: 8836 8265

He and His Two Wives

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: May 21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-880 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Opera

Puccini's Opera: Tosca

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: May 12-15, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-800 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Science no easy fix for fertility

By Han Manman

For women of child-bearing age who cannot get pregnant, artificial insemination can be a way to make their dreams come true. But the joy of motherhood often overshadows the risks associated with the process.

Experts say that although more couples are attempting artificial insemination, many are not suitable for the process. It's up to each couple to carefully weigh their options and have realistic expectations about the success rate and risks of the procedure.

When fertility fails

Last month, Hong Kong singer Kelly Chen had a miscarriage five months into her pregnancy with twin daughters created through artificial insemination.

After giving birth to their son Chace Lau in July 2009, the 38-year-old pop star said she and her husband Alex Lau wanted a baby girl before she turns 40.

Hong Kong media reported that Chen had undergone an external fertilization procedure, known for its higher success rate. She was given 30 shots to induce ovulation and became pregnant shortly after starting the process.

Though Chen did not state a specific reason for why the miscarriage occurred, Hong Kong reports blamed it on artificial insemination.

Artificial insemination is a method used to treat some forms of infertility afflicting both genders. The technique directly inserts sperm into the fallopian tubes or the cervical or uterine regions to reduce the journey and increase the likelihood of conception. Intrauterine insemination is the most prevalent form.

Although conception rate among women who undergo artificial insemination are lower than some other procedures, it is known for having fewer side effects and is considered preliminary therapy for infertility.

Risk of complications

But having fewer side effects does not mean artificial insemination is safe. In fact, there are many risks of complications after the procedure is complete.

Before undergoing artificial insemination, the mother takes fertility drugs to stimulate ovulation. However, the drugs can trigger the release of multiple eggs, causing a risk of multiple pregnancies, premature birth, underweight or disabled babies or neonatal death, said Zhang Yuelian, a doctor at the reproduction center of General Hospital of the Air Force.

She said that each additional fetus increases the odds of a spontaneous miscarriage: triplets have a 9 percent greater chance of miscarriage.

Women pregnant with multiple babies also have a greater chance of preeclampsia, a short-term blood pressure disorder that, if not controlled, can lead to seizures or liver or kidney damage and is a leading cause of maternal mortality.

Zhang said once born, the babies themselves face a host of issues that often lands them in the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit for months.

For any baby, the biggest complication comes from preterm delivery, considered to be anything before 37 weeks. Women pregnant with one baby usually deliver after 39 weeks. From there, the average gestational age goes down to 36 weeks for twins and 33 weeks for triplets.

Fertility drugs can also cause ovarian hyper stimulation syndrome, in which ovarian cysts form and the mother feels abdominal pain. The syndrome can also cause a swelling of the ovaries.

Hong Kong media reported that one 42-year-old woman on the island was diagnosed with the syndrome after being artificially inseminated. Last Thursday, she had a miscarriage and ended up paralyzed on the left side of her body due to complications.

Zhang said mothers can also develop uterine or fallopian tube infections if the catheter and other medical instrument used during the procedure were not properly sterilized.

Post procedure, women may experience vaginal discharge, vaginal bleeding, cramping or pain in the stomach. Minor side effects include hot flashes, sleeplessness, mood changes, headaches and depression.

Tips before choosing

Zhang said every couple looking to undergo artificial insemination should think carefully before choosing to attempt artificial insemination.

How to finance the procedure is usually the first question. Before undergoing any medical examinations or other procedures to prepare for artificial insemination, it is a good idea to speak with a fertility doctor about the total expense of the procedure, she said.

Artificial insemination is costly. As it is a specialty practice within the medical field, it is important to interview several doctors and look at their success rates with the procedure.

Moreover, not everyone is a good candidate for artificial insemination, Zhang said. A couple has to be physically and emotionally ready before they decide to undergo artificial insemination.

Artificial insemination is usually suggested as a treatment for couples where the man has a low sperm count or low sperm motility, where either partner has had previous reproductive surgeries, if there is a prior history of smoking history or disease, or even unexplained fertility.

Even if the couple is physically capable of going through with the procedure, it is important to find out whether they are emotionally prepared.

Both partners must be mature enough to follow a strict schedule because artificial insemination requires accurate timing on both the doctor's and the patient's part.

The couple will also have to consider whether they are emotionally prepared to cope with the disappointment of a failed procedure: artificial insemination has only a 25 percent success rate on the first try.

The 'wild' Great Wall of Qilianguan

By Zhang Dongya

The Ming Great Wall in Beijing, which extends from Mentougou in the west to Miyun and Pinggu in the northeast, can be divided into several sections according to their geographic differences.

There are well-preserved sections such as at Mutianyu and Juyongguan, but the "wild" parts of the Wall, which have eroded and require special care, may offer a better perspective on the ancient relics.

Qilianguan Great Wall, a small section in Huairou District in the northeast, is an ideal choice this season. The ancient Wall here zigzags into mountains that are now decorated with trees turning green and wild flowers that have just blossomed.



Qianlianguan Great Wall at sunset

Photo by Yangzi



Walking the Qilianguan Great Wall, you will be transported back hundreds of years.

CFP Photos



Spring is the best season to visit Qilianguan.

Photo by Mockingbird

Ancient pass

Qilian Pass is located south of Lianhuachi (Lotus Pool) Village in Yanqi Town. Locals also call this pass Queliang – "lacking grain." Some say Qilian comes from the name of a leader who built the wall here, while "Queliang" came about due to the difficulties of building the wall, when soldiers often lacked grain and worked while hungry.

According to ancient records, it was

built during Emperor Yongle's reign in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). The Pass was connected with the Mutianyu Great Wall on one side and Shentangyu Great Wall on the other.

The walls to the north of Lotus Pool were mostly built with stones. In some steep parts, only hollow watchtowers were constructed. The section from Lotus Pool to Mutianyu Great Wall in the southwest were built with both bricks and rocks.

Exploratory tour

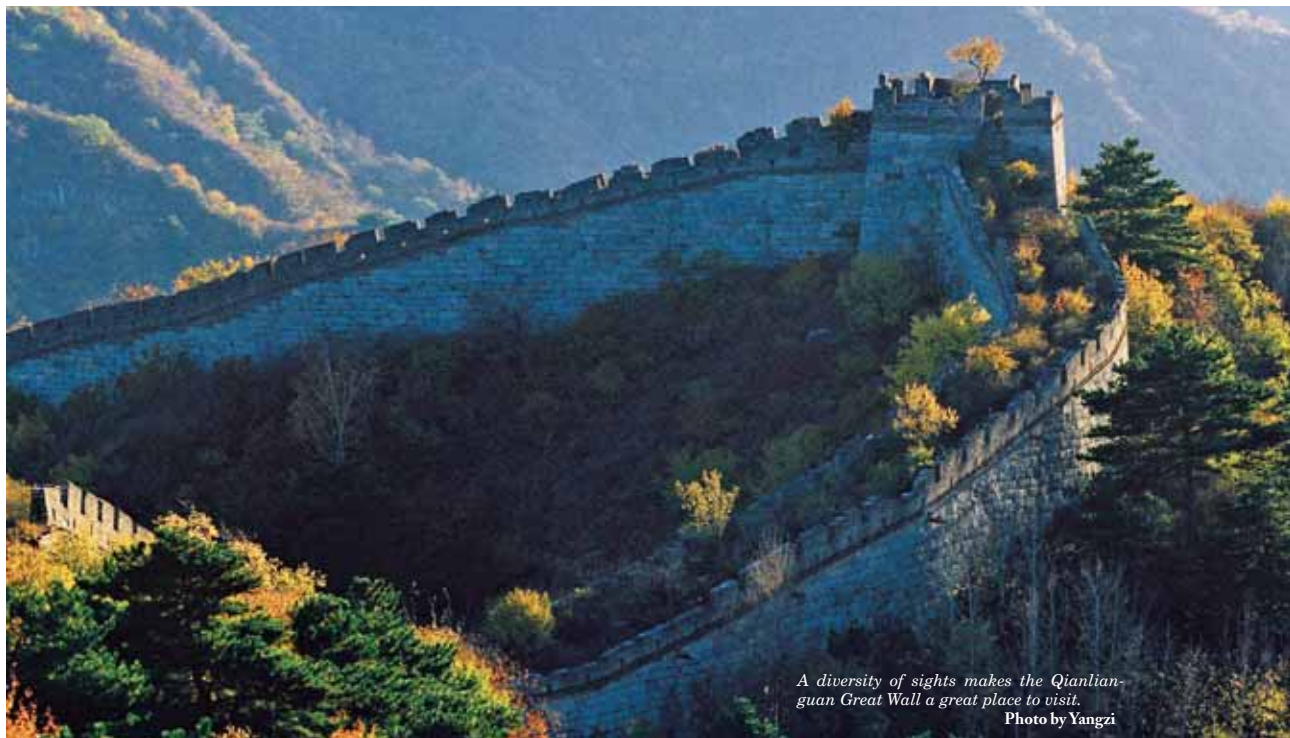
Lianhuachi Village is abundant with spring flowers like lotuses emerging from the water. An old spring supplies villagers with water; the mineral water brand Lotus was started here.

Qilian Pass once had a gate, with two large cannons guarding it from the outside. The gate was demolished and cannons taken away in the 1970s to make way for a road. A bridge was also built over the

pool. However, two beacon towers remain on each side of the pass.

Visitors must climb a mountain along a small path to get to Qilian Pass. After 10 minutes, they will arrive at the first beacon tower, which is surrounded by weeds. From this stop, one can spot the restored walls of Mutianyu far away. Chairlift cables can also be seen in the distance.

Continued on page 21...



A diversity of sights makes the Qianlianguan Great Wall a great place to visit.

Photo by Yangzi



CFP Photo

...continued from page 20

Walking along these trampled walls, you can almost imagine what they were like 500 years ago. Many of the watchtowers have collapsed and stones have broken off the walls – but at one time they must have been imposing.

Walking through several beacon towers, one comes to the restored Mutianyu Great Wall, crowded with tourists.

The Qilianguan section features beautiful mountain landscape. In April, trees have turned green and wide flowers are blossoming.

Spring and autumn are the best seasons for climbing the wall. In September and October, the mountains around Qilianguan Great Wall begin to turn florid – red like the color of changing leaves.

“While climbing the Qilianguan Great Wall, you will be mesmer-

ized by the scenery along the way,” one traveler said. “It doesn’t seem important whether you reach the top or not.”

Getting there: Drive along Beijing-Chengde Expressway to Huairou District. Turn left at Yanqi Huandao and drive

another half an hour. Or take bus 916 to Huairou Longquan Hotel and transfer to minibus 3 to Lianhuachi.

Admission: Free

Note: It will take about two hours to go through the Qilianguan Great Wall.



Some parts of the Qilianguan Great Wall are in ruins after hundreds of years. Photo by Mockingbird



Flowers are in bloom at Legend in Mountains Resort at the foot of the Qilianguan Great Wall.

Photos by Yangzi



Accommodations Shanzhong Chuanqi (Legend in Mountains) Resort

Hidden at the foot of the Great Wall, this resort attracts visitors with its secluded and leisurely environment. The buildings here are in the European style. While enjoying a cup of tea made from clear spring water, you can enjoy a slow and tranquil afternoon at the foot of the Great Wall. The resort also offers a place for fishing and barbecue.

Tel: 6162 9004

Cost: 180 yuan for standard room per day per person, or

240 yuan per room, which can house three people. Price changes according to the season.

Specialties

One of the specialties in Huairou is the rainbow trout. The famous place to eat this fish is the “valley of rainbow trout.” The spring is ideal for the trout, so the fish tastes fresh here. We recommend dining at a farmer’s house for a more authentic experience. It costs 70 to 90 yuan to spend a night in a farmer’s house.

Other special dishes include stewed chicken with mushroom,

steamed buns with wild herbs in stuffing.

You can also try some local specialties such as wild jujube, walnut and chestnut, which are picked from the mountains.

Getting to village: Drive along Beijing-Chengde Expressway to Huairou District. Pass through Yanqi Huandao and Shentangyu Lu and drive directly to the village. Or take bus 916 to Huairou Sanzhong and transfer to a coach to the village. The coach departs every half an hour in the morning and every hour in the afternoon.

Event

Top hotels, restaurants join to promote Catering Rewards

More than 100 top hotels and restaurants in Beijing and Shanghai, such as Marriot Beijing City Wall, Hilton Beijing Capital Airport, Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong, Four Seasons Hotel Shanghai, Grand Hyatt Shanghai Hotel, Pudong Shangri-la Shanghai, Jasmine Restaurant & Lounge and Park 16 Food & Wine Club NOW, are cooperating through May to promote a catering rewards program.

"Let the Gift Vouchers Fly," the rewards campaign, will distribute more than 100 million yuan worth of gift certificates. The event is sponsored by Air China Phoenix-miles, China Merchants Bank and CSIBally, whose VIP members are entitled to receive free vouchers. Diners can visit the official website of the campaign organizer Five Star Club (wuxinghui.com) to get a 100-yuan voucher for select hotel catering products. Customers can earn 50 yuan's worth of five-star points for every 100 yuan spent at participating hotels and restaurants.

Five Star Club is launching a second "Daily Star" promotion in the middle of this month. It will allow customers to select top hotel catering products at a special rate.



Enjoy Easter at Café Cha

Café Cha has concocted a fantastic Easter Weekend buffet for your family. Along with the delectable menu is a scrumptious spread of Easter favorites. Let your kids loose to hunt for Easter eggs in the hotel's garden and function rooms. They can show off their creativity at egg decorating activities.

Where: Café Cha, Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: buffet lunch available April 23 and 24 (Saturday and Sunday); children under 6 eat free, 6 to 12 half off; activities 10 am — 12:30 pm

Cost: buffet lunch, 428 yuan with free soft drinks or 498 yuan with champagne (15 percent gratuity)

Tel: 6841 2211 ext. 6715

Green tea flavor made to savor

Nothing beats the taste and texture of green tea. Satisfy your cravings with four amazing teas at the Lobby Lounge now!

Where: Lobby lounge, China World Hotel, Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Until April 30

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 37

Daily promotions at Hopfenstube

Hopfenstube provides promotions throughout the week.

Monday is Hoppy Hour with buy-one-get-one-free house beer starting from 5 pm; Tuesday is Dark Tuesdays with buy-one-get-one-free dark beer starting from 5 pm; Wednesday is Wheat Wednes-

days with buy-one-get-one-free wheat beer starting from 5 pm; Thursday is Beijing Thursday, where you can buy Zhajiang Noodles and get a free 300-milliliter house beer free at any time; Friday and Saturday are TGIF and Saturday with all-you-can-drink house beer for 88 yuan between 6:30 and 9 pm; Sunday is Sausage Sundays and Sunday Funday, where you can buy one sausage dish and get a second free or buy two house beers and get one free all day!

Where: Crown Plaza, Beijing, Chaoyang, U-Town, 3 Sanfeng North Area, Chaoyang District
Tel: 5909 6683

Gourmet Corner's rebirth remedies

When Jesus Christ, the messiah of Christianity, was reborn, the earth filled with joy. Get a taste of this joy with our Easter goodies! From Easter eggs to Easter bunnies, our creative chocolates at the Gourmet Corner know no bounds.

Where: China World Hotel, Beijing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: April 17-30

Tel: 6505 2266 ext. 43



Asian specialties lunch

Indulge in the culinary offerings of savory Asian cuisine at your next lunch. All "taste of Asia" items are 58 yuan with a soup of the day.

Where: Crown Plaza, Beijing, Chaoyang, U-Town, 3 Sanfeng Bei Li, Chaoyang District

When: Monday to Friday

Cost: 58 yuan

Tel: 5909 6683

Hotel

Weekend package

Enjoy a city weekend retreat with family and loved ones in one of the city's most luxurious and spacious guestrooms with a magnificent view of the cityscape.

This offer includes stay in a Premier Room starting at 2,688 yuan per room per night; daily breakfast for two at Grill 79 on 79 or The Lounge on 80; gourmet credit good for up to 1,000 yuan per stay; in-room welcome amenities; and late check-out until 4 pm (subject to availability).

Where: China World Summit Wing, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District
When: Until December 31
Cost: from 2,688 yuan per night
Tel: 6505 2299

(By Jackie Zhang)

Cinema



First cinema offer customizing hits Sanlitun area

Before Orange Cinemas opened March 28 at Pacific Department Store, it was hard to find a high-end movie theater in China. Orange dominates its spacious 1,300-square-meter interior, the brainchild of Polish designer Robert Majkut.

Its three themed movie houses are equipped with the most advanced digital screening devices made by Sony. Each has fewer than 30 seats and provides personal bookings, seat reservations and dining reservations for members. The theater is also planning to show sporting events and concert recordings.

The cinema provides customers with a music bar, cigar bar, VIP suites and live performances, all accompanied by fine dining and select wines. Orange Cinemas' planning team can help to coordinate parties, business meetings and lectures for VIP members.

Where: 4/F, Pacific Department Store, A2 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 400-6700-0150

(By Liang Meilan)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

Chinglish gets rid of prostitution

By Zhao Hongyi

Last week, I was assigned a news story about China's sex industry, which Chinese police have been cracking down on. In related news, the National Public Security Ministry decided to begin calling prostitutes "fallen women," referring to them as having "lapsed" or "made a mistake."

The ministry's insistence on calling prostitutes "fallen women" is almost a sign of respect, of at least an acknowledgement of the circumstances that drive women to enter the world's oldest profession.

And just like that, prostitution in China has disappeared!

But I looked up the phrase "fallen women" online and found it has long been used to describe prostitutes, dating back to the Victorian period. It seems that different cultures from different periods of time share the same attitude toward these "workers of the night."

For many during the Victorian era, being a "fallen woman" meant coming from a lower class and being forced into the sex industry by circumstance. Not too different from today.

Most Chinese people believe the government actually has a responsibility to help fallen women, just as Mao Zedong did when he closed the country's brothels and gave prostitutes jobs.

But while the government rebrands prostitutes as "fallen women," they could do well to keep their hands off other Chinglish phrases.

Take the word *geili*, which translates literally to "give strength." Netizens created "geilivable" and

"ungeilivable" to describe people and events that are shocking or strongly felt. China's progress in space research and exploration, for instance, is very geilivable.

But authorities who insist its citizens use the right Chinese phrases and English expressions strongly opposed these online phrases.

Still, they persisted. "Newbility" is a word deriving from "niubility," referring to those who pretend to be power-

ful: a combination of *niubi* (awesome) and nobility.

"Shability" comes from a Chinese term that I'd blush to write out here, meaning "very dumb." It combines the Chinese curse with "ability" — as in one who has none.

As the country's youth gain more confidence in their creative abilities, more of these sort of phrases will appear.



Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

1. Limit how many fats and sugars you are taking in

Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD): Fat, like water and ink, is an uncountable noun. How can there be "fats"? I will show you some examples of the usage of fat: The Asiatic sheep turn their food into fat and store it. Fat dripped from the roasting joint of beef. There is indeed "fats" in the plural in Australian and New Zealand English in which it means fat domestic cattle or sheep. In the case of "sugar" it can be countable, as well as uncountable. People may ask: How many sugars do you need in your tea? In this case, it actually means "how many cubes of sugar." According to their chemical structure, sugars are classified into three categories. However, in the sample sentence you are not talking about chemical categories, so sugar should be used as the uncountable one. So, the right way to say it should be: Limit how much fat and sugar you are taking in.

Terry Boyd Zhang (TBZ): Like sugar, I suspect that "fats" is unconsciously used in the plural as in the chemical meaning. Perhaps using these in the plural is part of the changing nature of English.

2. Yogurt has a great of protein to carbohydrates

ZSD: I don't think there is such a phrase "a great of." I think there must be something missing here. We may say: Yogurt has a great wealth of nutrients from protein to carbohydrates. Or, Yogurt contains many protein and carbohydrates.

TBZ: Another possibility might be: Yogurt is a great source of protein and carbohydrates.

3. The expert worries American farming for the Chinese

ZSD: I think here it should be: The expert worries about American farming for the Chinese. "Worry" is an intransitive verb. For instance, we say: I would not worry about it if I were you. People worry about the safety of nuclear energy. When it is a transitive verb, we may say: His prolonged absence worries me. Don't worry me with your complaints. So, we may see that in the sample sentence, to worry is an intransitive verb. I think we should say: The expert worries about American farming for the Chinese.

TBZ: Another concern about the sample sentence is "Chinese" left hanging by itself. Chinese what? Chinese people, Chinese farming industry or Chinese import industry? Sometimes it is better to add a bit more information - to you, the writer, it may feel a bit redundant, but for your reader it makes the difference between clarity and confusion.

4. The measures would be the second time restrictions have been placed on mainland mothers who wish to give birth in Hong Kong.

ZSD: The sentence is grammatically all right. There is nothing wrong. However, it is too wordy and not refined in style. We need to make some minor corrections to change it to a perfect sentence: The restrictive measures would be the second of its kind placed on mainland mothers who wish to give birth in Hong Kong.

TBZ: This is somewhat opposite to what I said above. Often sentences become too wordy because they are translations.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Bumping your head in Beijing

By Terry Boyd Zhang

I have heard about tall people having head-bumping issues in Beijing. Whether it be on the bus, at home with the doorframes or on the subway, this may not be the best city for tall folks. Of course, this is perhaps a global problem for the stature-endowed among us.

These signs are both helpful, and the Chinese on them is identical: *xiaoxin pengtou*. My daughter's daycare has one like this that sits at about four feet off the ground (like kindergartners are actually going to read the sign before knocking themselves silly ... or perhaps it is for the grandmas ...).

In the first sign — "Be careful of



crashing your head" — the message is clear. If you continue to experience problems, I have a helmet that I'm not using. The second sign — "Caution: Run into it" — appears to have a couple of very small but ultimately extremely important words missing — those being "do not."

Let's just read the Chinese characters. *Xiao* means little and *xin* means heart. If you use all your abstract artistic abilities, it does look like a heart. Honest. Put these two together and you get "small heart." I'm joking; you get "careful." *Peng* means what it sounds like — bonk, clonk, doink, crash; and *tou* means head.

The Mechanic

(2011)

Movie of the week

After watching enough adrenaline-pumping gunfights, young men dream of becoming one of two things: heroes or a hitmen.

The Mechanic, a remake of an earlier 1970s film by the same name, provides the special effects and action needed to inspire the next generation of action heroes. Its portrayal of gun fights and hand-to-hand combat are worth the price of admission.

Synopsis

Arthur Bishop is a "mechanic" – an elite assassin who follows a strict code and who has a unique talent for cleanly eliminating his targets. It's a job that requires professional perfection and total detachment, and Bishop is the best in the business.

But when his mentor and close friend Harry is murdered, Bishop is anything but detached. His next assignment is self-imposed – he wants those responsible dead. His mission grows complicated when Harry's son Steve approaches him with the same vengeful goal and a determination to learn Bishop's trade.

Scene 1

(Arthur meets Harry at a restaurant after the assignment.)

Harry McKenna (H): Everything went OK?

Arthur Bishop (A): It got done.

H: You know, I'm better than you. That's why they give you those jobs. They can't get a little Harry because if they were a good Harry, then you would take care of it and that's all they care about? Services rendered, no loose ends (1). *Fait accompli* (2). You're a god damn machine. You see things. You feel people differently than I do, differently than anybody does. But you got a problem, Arthur. You do need companionship.

A: I have you, Harry.

H: Then you're in deeper s---t than I thought.

A: So, how's Steven?

H: Did I tell you I got him a job at a private security firm? They kicked him out last month. He hit some guy half to death. God damn disappointment. Always has been. Always will be.



Scene 2

(Arthur and Harry at an underground parking lot. Arthur is there to kill Harry.)

H: My van is here.

A: I left it there.

H: Oh, s---t. You get me to circumvent my own security. Nobody sees me leave. So, what's this? Cape Town right?

A: Right.

H: So, what's the story here? Car jacking? Police will find my van somewhere in a s---thole section of the city, stripped up on blocks?

A: Something like that.

H: It's like auditorial vision.

(Harry takes out his hand gun.)

H: You do not mind? Yeah, I get off a couple of shots. There is struggle and they get my gun. *C'est la vie* (3). At least I don't go down (4) looking like a pussy. I have that for 33 years, gift from Admiral Beasley, sixth fleet. That is the first time I ever fired it.

A: Why didn't you kill me?

H: They would just send somebody else. I would rather it was you, Arthur.

A: You have to live with it.

Vocabulary

1. **loose end**: an unresolved problem

2. **fait accompli**: an accomplished fact

3. **C'est la vie**: a French phrase which means "such is life"

4. **go down**: here it means to die

5. **give it a rest**: to stop doing something

6. **save it up**: to put something away; here it means to forget about revenge

(By Huang Daohen)

Scene 3

(Steve and Arthur at Harry's funeral.)

Steve McKenna (S): Arthur f---king Bishop.

A: Sorry for your loss.

S: More of a loss for you than me, buddy. It's a long time. Hey, would you give me a ride to my father's house?

(Steve and Arthur are on the way to Harry's house.)

A: Your father talked about you a lot. Talked about spending time with you. Maybe make it up.

S: Give it a rest (5), will you?

A: He was always bringing you up. He had regrets staying with

S: And he could pick up the phone anytime.

(They arrive at the house. Pictures of Steve's forefathers hang on the wall.)

S: I want to show you something. I loved this place as a kid. It's pretty impressive, huh? Every one of them served their country. I guess I could still do it, you know, make them proud. I'm f---king with you. I don't know if you have a picture of my father? Maybe you want one.

A: Just looking up. Plan on sticking around?

S: For what? He didn't leave a will. The accounts are empty. Banks are gonna take the house. By the time the lawyers get a stake in it there's not gonna be a f---king thing left.

A: Where you headed?

S: I had some place.

A: Need some money?

S: No, thanks. I got a guy come to the house. He's gonna look at the car. I figure that I can probably get a pay through on the next spot.

A: What about the guns?

S: I was thinking about going out and killing myself a couple of car-jackers tonight.

A: Just any all-around-the-world car-jack, huh?

S: Yeah, you never know. I might get lucky, find the guys that killed my dad. That'll make you feel better? F---k if I know. I'll find out.

A: Save it up (6), Steve.

S: Hey, Bishop, what kind of person shoots someone in a wheelchair, anyway?

